

Mikko Jalas

BUSY, WISE AND IDLE TIME

A STUDY OF THE TEMPORALITIES OF CONSUMPTION IN THE
ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE

HELSINKI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
ACTA UNIVERSITATIS OECONOMICAE HELSINCIENSIS

CONTENTS

Prologue.....1

1 Introduction.....3

2 Ecological modernization and consumption.....7

 Ecological modernization -the dominant paradigm of the environmental debate. . . . 7

 Structural changes in consumption expenditure.....9

 Eco-efficient consumption innovations.....11

 Rebound effects as a form of self-criticism.....14

 Eco-efficient innovation and the socio-technical structure of consumption.....15

3 A Romantic epistemology as a critique of ecological modernization.....19

 Romanticism as a form of phenomenological knowing.....20

 Romanticism and the environmental debate.....23

4 The temporalities of consumption and everyday life.....29

 Intrinsic meanings and cyclicity as structures in linear time.....29

 Economics as a study of goal-directed instrumental human action.....33

 The time of skilled practical action.....36

 Socio-temporal ordering through reoccurring rituals.....40

 Slow and fast time.....41

5 The contribution of the papers:

 indicators and research approaches for the environmental debate.....47

 Creating room for a different environmental politics of consumption.....47

 Intrinsically meaningful time in the accounting schemas

 of societal energy and material flows.....50

 A time use perspective on the materials intensity of consumption.....50

 The Everyday Life Context of Increasing Energy Demands.

 Time Use Survey Data in a Decomposition Analysis.....52

 Sustainability in everyday life - a matter of time.....56

 Further research interests concerning time use survey data and expenditure data.....58

 Slow moments as socio-technical arrangements: the making of wooden boating... 59

6 Implications for environmental policy;

 ways to "sustainable consumption".....63

 The personal and the political.....63

 Temporal clashes in environmental policy-making.....66

 Time aspects of the policy field of sustainable consumption.....71

7 Summary.....77

References.....81