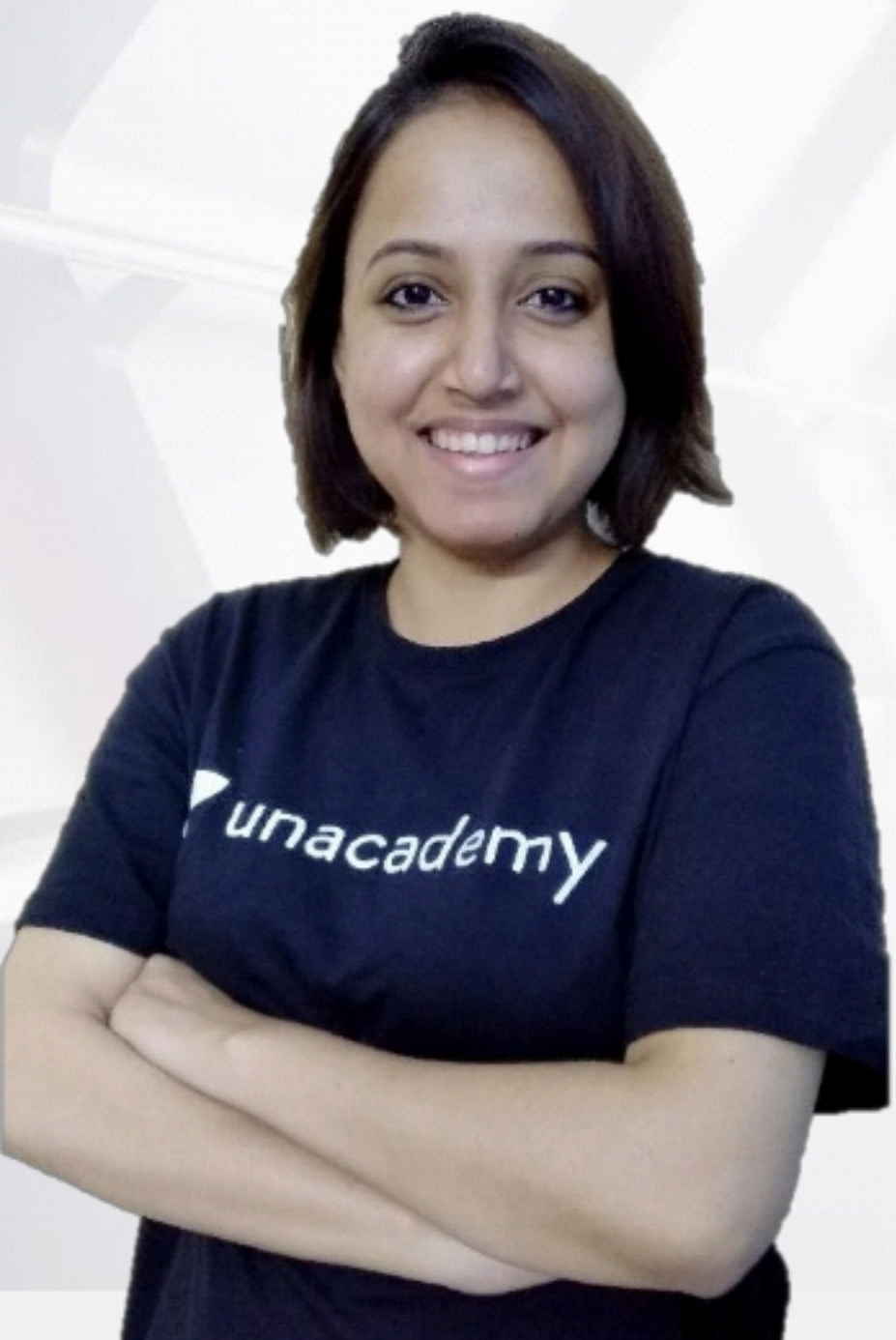


UGC NTA-NET SOCIOLOGY

CHANGING NOTIONS OF TIME AND SPACE



UNIT 9: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

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HISTORY

- The sociology of space is a sub-discipline of sociology that mostly borrows from theories developed within the discipline of geography
- The "sociology" of space examines the social and material constitution of spaces.
- It is concerned with understanding the social practices, institutional forces, and material complexity of how humans and spaces interact.

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- The sociology of space is an inter-disciplinary area of study, drawing on various theoretical traditions including Marxism, postcolonialism, and Science and Technology Studies, and overlaps and encompasses theorists with various academic disciplines such as geography and architecture.
- Georg Simmel has been seen as the classical sociologist who was most important to this field.

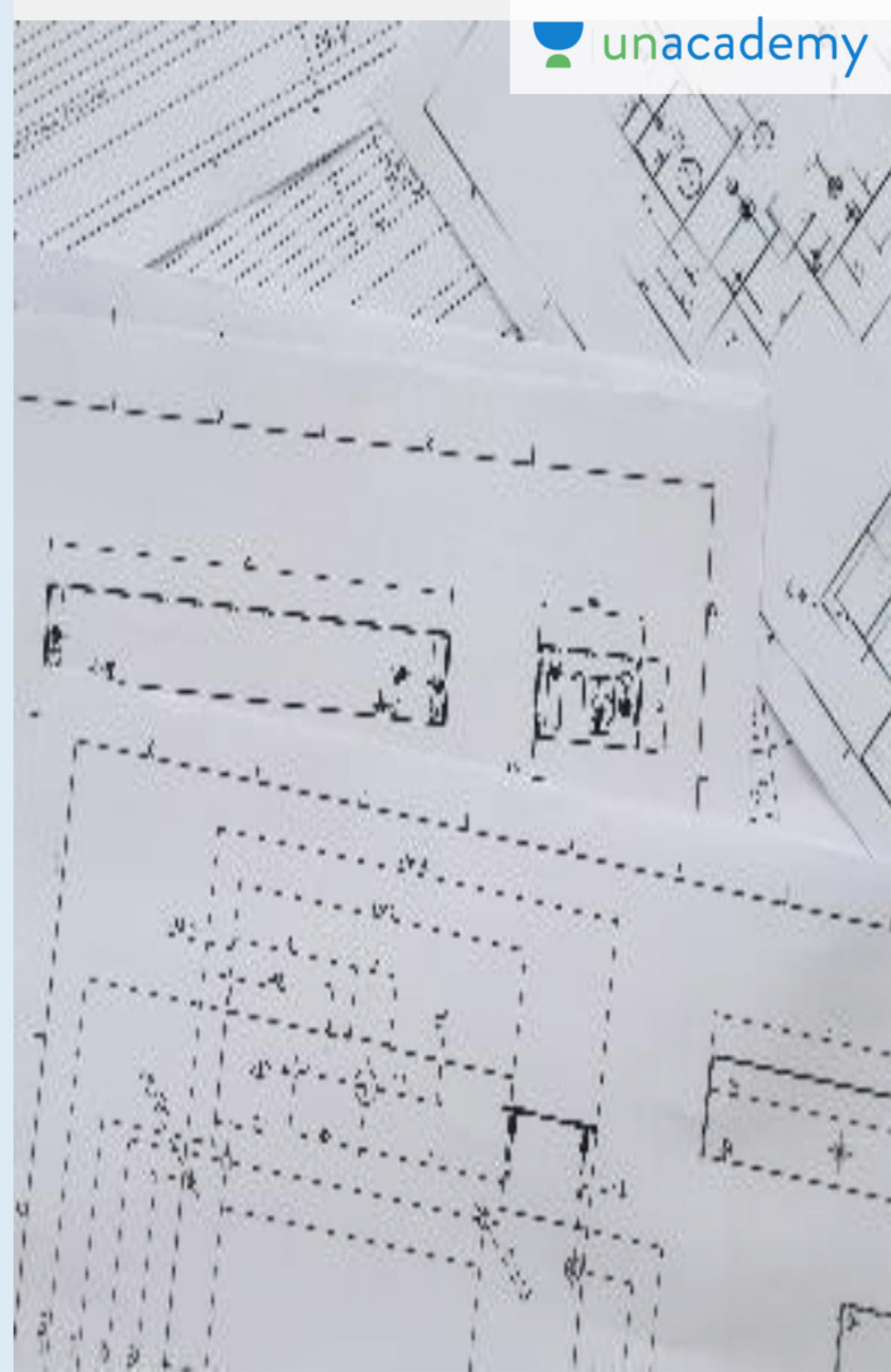


- Simmel wrote on "the sociology of space" in his 1908 book "Sociology: Investigations on the Forms of Sociation".
- His concerns included the process of metropolitanisation and the separation of leisure spaces in modern economic societies.
- Other eminent people who have dealt with space are David Harvey, Henri Lefebvre, Manuel Castells etc.



DUALITY OF SPACE

- **Martina Löw** developed the idea of a "relational" model of space, which focuses on the "orderings" of living entities and social goods, and examines how space is constituted in processes of perception, recall, or ideation to manifest itself as societal structure.
- From a social theory point of view, it follows on from the theory of structuration proposed by Anthony Giddens, whose concept of the "duality of structure" Löw extends sociological terms into a "duality of space."



- Industrialization is associated with the **factory system of production**. The family has **lost** its economic importance.
- The factories have brought down the prices of commodities, improved their quality and **maximized their output**.
- The whole process of production is mechanized. Consequently the traditional skills have declined and good number of artisans has lost their work.
- Huge factories could provide employment opportunities to thousands of people. Hence men have become workers in a very large number.
- The process of industrialization has affected the nature, character and the growth of economy. It has contributed to the **growth of cities** or to the process of urbanization.

LEFEBVRE AND HARVEY

- The most important proponent of Marxist spatial theory was Henri Lefebvre.
- He proposed "social space" to be where the relations of production are reproduced
- Lefèbvre sees the societal production of space as a dialectical interaction between three factors. Space is constituted:
 - by “spatial practice,” meaning space as reproduced in everyday life
 - by the “representation of space”, meaning space as developed cognitively
 - and by “spaces of representation,” by which Lefebvre means complex symbolisations and ideational spaces.

- Marxist spatial theory was given decisive new impetus by **David Harvey**, in particular, who was interested in the effects of the transition from Fordism to “flexible accumulation” on the experience of **space and time**.
- He shows how various innovations at the economic and technological levels have breached inflexibility of the Fordist system, thus increasing the turnover rate of capital. This causes a general acceleration of economic cycles.
- According to Harvey, the result is “**time-space compression**.”

DISCOURSES OF GLOBAL AND LOCAL

- Gibson-Graham (2002) has identified at least six ways in which the relationship between the local and the global is often viewed.
 1. The global and the local are seen as interpretive frames for analyzing situations
 2. Drawing on Dirlik, Gibson-Graham suggests that in such a representation, the global is 'something more than the national or regional ..anything other than the local'. Meaning that, the global and the local each derive meaning from what they are not.
 3. According to French social theorist Bruno Latour, the local and the global 'offer different points of view on networks that are by nature neither local nor global, but are more or less long and more or less connected. Also, in Latour's view, it is impossible to distinguish where the local ends and the global begins.

4. The concept 'The global is local' was proposed by Gibson-Graham. For instance, multinational firms are actually 'multi local' rather than 'global'.
5. The local is global. In this view, the local is an entry point to the world of global flows which encircle the planet.
6. The global and the local are actually the processes rather than the locations. All spaces are the hybrids of global and local; so they are 'glocal.'

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology_of_space
- Various articles by Lefebvre and David Harvey



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