

# Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<b>Introduction: The Pulse of Modern Academia</b>	1
Analytical Strategy	7
<b>1 Thematizing Acceleration</b>	11
Acceleration as a sociological theme	12
Critique of the fast world	14
Hartmut Rosa: acceleration thesis	17
Socio-cultural immediacy	27
Conclusion	32
<b>2 Continuity and Change in the Temporal Dynamics of Capitalism</b>	34
Capitalism's speed imperatives	35
Intensive and extensive dimensions: post-Fordist accelerated growth	44
The cultural logic of acceleration: racing and competing	49
The politics of de- and re-synchronization	52
Conclusion	61
<b>3 Vehicularity: The Idea of the Knowledge Economy</b>	63
Genealogy of the idea of the knowledge economy	67
Qualifying knowledge	71
Promoting and stabilizing the idea of the knowledge economy	72
Academia in the conditions of the knowledge economy: diagnoses, analyses, extensions	77
Conclusion	88
<b>4 Performativity: Competitiveness and Excellence</b>	90
The material significance of rhetoric	92
Competitiveness-talk (or, against slowness)	95
Excellence-talk	105
Conclusion	113
<b>5 Acceleration in the Academic Life-World</b>	115
Socially differentiated temporal autonomy	118
Pleasures and pressures of acceleration	122
Conclusion	139

<b>6</b>	<b>Fast Sites: Igniting and Catapulting Knowledge</b>	<b>142</b>
	Re-missioning academia	144
	Catapulting and incubating	147
	Fast sites in the Russell Group	154
	Conclusion	166
<b>7</b>	<b>Sociology, Fast and Slow</b>	<b>168</b>
	Sociology's 'chronopolitics'	170
	Auditing sociology	183
	Conclusion	195
	<b>Conclusion: For a Temporal Autonomy of Academia</b>	<b>196</b>
	<i>Appendices</i>	200
	<i>Notes</i>	205
	<i>Bibliography</i>	211
	<i>Index</i>	233