

SOCIOLOGY • CULTURAL STUDIES

"Gamsby's speculative reconstruction of Henri Lefebvre's unrealized sociology of boredom highlights the virtues of centering a critical theory of modernity on the contradictions and possibilities of everyday life under consumer capitalism. A lively, wide-ranging, and timely contribution to boredom studies that should engage readers in many fields."

—**Elizabeth S. Goodstein**, author of *Experience Without Qualities: Boredom and Modernity*

"In this rigorous yet lively and accessible study, Gamsby provides us with a reliable guide to the growing literature on boredom and also uniquely contributes by reading boredom primarily through the 'critique of everyday life' pioneered by the enigmatic and still oft-overlooked French social thinker Henri Lefebvre. Like his mentor, Gamsby is a 'partisan of possibilities' grappling with the myriad complexities, paradoxes, and latent potentialities of boredom, as manifested across diverse spatio-temporal sites and practices, including suburban life, technology, bureaucratized work, and consumption, with an eye to disentangling the banalities from the utopian aspirations the 'longing for content' boredom represents."

—**Michael Gardiner**, Western University

*Henri Lefebvre, Boredom, and Everyday Life* culls together the scattered fragments of Henri Lefebvre's (1901–1991) unrealized sociology of boredom. In assembling these fragments, sprinkled through Lefebvre's vast oeuvre, Patrick Gamsby constructs the core elements of Lefebvre's latent theory of boredom. Themes of time (modernity, everyday), space (urban, suburban), and mass culture (culture industry, industry culture) are explored throughout the book, unveiling a concealed dialectical movement at work with the experience of boredom. In analyzing the dialectic of boredom, Gamsby argues that Lefebvre's project of a critique of everyday life is key for making sense of the linkages between boredom and everyday life in the modern world.

**PATRICK GAMSBY** is scholarly communications librarian at Memorial University of Newfoundland.



LEXINGTON BOOKS  
An imprint of  
Rowman & Littlefield  
800-462-6420 • [www.rowman.com](http://www.rowman.com)

ISBN 978-1-66690-097-2



9 781666 900972

90000

Cover image © Francois Locho/Gamma-Rapho/Getty Images



Acknowledgments	ix
Credits	xi
List of Abbreviations for Henri Lefebvre's Work	xiii
Introduction	1
Chapter One: The Birth of Boredom in Modernity	27
Chapter Two: The Absence of Style in Everyday Life	67
Chapter Three: The Incredible Dullness of Urbanism	105
Chapter Four: The Endless Yawn of the Suburbs	139
Chapter Five: The Emptiness of Consumption	175
Chapter Six: The Numbness of Work	217
Conclusion	237
Bibliography	243
Index	265
About the Author	271