



Independent Social Research Foundation

Preface

Every year this group of collaborators meets for a week's Workshop in Lausanne. Each time we examine a particular aspect of the overall project: 'From Modernity to Morphogenic Society?', which is generously supported by the Independent Social Research Foundation as is the *Centre d'Ontologie Sociale* in its activities. We are extremely grateful to the ISRF because long-term funding allows us to work systematically on this theme.

The question mark is the most important part of this project. Instead of rushing to proclaim the advent of a new social formation as so many have done, we can proceed more slowly and examine the various theoretical and substantive issues involved in societal transformation. Thus, we are exploring rather than endorsing the transition from Modernity to Morphogenic society. Whether or not we conclude in favour of this proposition will depend upon the outcome of our exchanges over the following 3 years.

Because this is our preferred method of working, we are also very grateful to our publisher, Springer, whose editors support our rationale and have devoted this closed series of books to our collective development of these ideas.

Each annual volume is intended to be self-contained as far as the reader is concerned, although we hope that readers will become interested in how our internal discussions and debates unfold.

Thus, the first volume *Social Morphogenesis* (2013) was broadly concerned with differentiating the 'morphogenetic approach' as a framework for analysing the processes of social change from 'Morphogenic Society' as a possible outcome – a new global social formation.

In this volume, we take stock of Late Modernity and its potential trajectories. Subsequent collective volumes will examine further central issues: the 'generative mechanisms' at work today, not all which steer the social order in the same direction; the problem of normative fragmentation and the increasing deficit in social integration at a time of rapid and radical morphogenesis; and the most important question of all, in what ways could a potential Morphogenic Society constitute a 'good society'.

Thanks are due, above all, to the ‘Group of Ten’ collaborators, coming from varied theoretical backgrounds, who have engaged so productively together.

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Late Modernity

Trajectories towards Morphogenic Society

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