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*Complexity as a Challenge to Sociological Imagination*

Sociological imagination was defined by Charles Wright Mills as an ability to see connections between individual biography, social structure and history. Mills believed that it was indispensable to a social scientist in order to help people better to understand their own existential situation. This view was in line with the state of critical social theory in 1950s, according to which new forms of capitalist economy and post-war democracy constituted a challenge to both personal coping strategies and scientific insights.

I argue that this challenge has in our days been redefined as a part of what is sometimes called “complexity turn”. Various technically sophisticated accounts of social complexity are accompanied by a more vague feeling that we not only live in the most complex societies in history, but also experience an unprecedented growth of complexity in virtually all spheres of our lives. I will offer my account of complexity turn in social sciences and discuss its implications for sociological imagination in contemporary world.