Richard Sennett

The Corrosion of Character
The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism

Richard Sennett

Born 1943

Professor of sociology at the London School of Economics and New York University

Specialized in research on urban studies, labour, and the sociology of culture.

Reasons

- Critical voice
- Original thinker
- Tries to give an overall view of the situation
- Practical as well as theoretical approach
- Pleasant and controversial reading
Central idea

In the new economy, people have to cope with new concepts of “flextime”, “teamwork” and “flexibility” that are seemingly presenting new opportunities of self-fulfilment, but in reality creating new forms of oppression ultimately disorienting individuals and undermining their emotional and psychological well-being.
Main points

- Good observations about the changes taking place in the working place.
- Flaws in argumentation lead to inadequate conclusions.
- Observations made are not limited to workplace.
Conclusion

- Sennett wrongly blames the New Economy for the observations he makes.
- Real causes of the loss of orientation?
- How to provide meaning in a volatile and chaotic environment?

Education