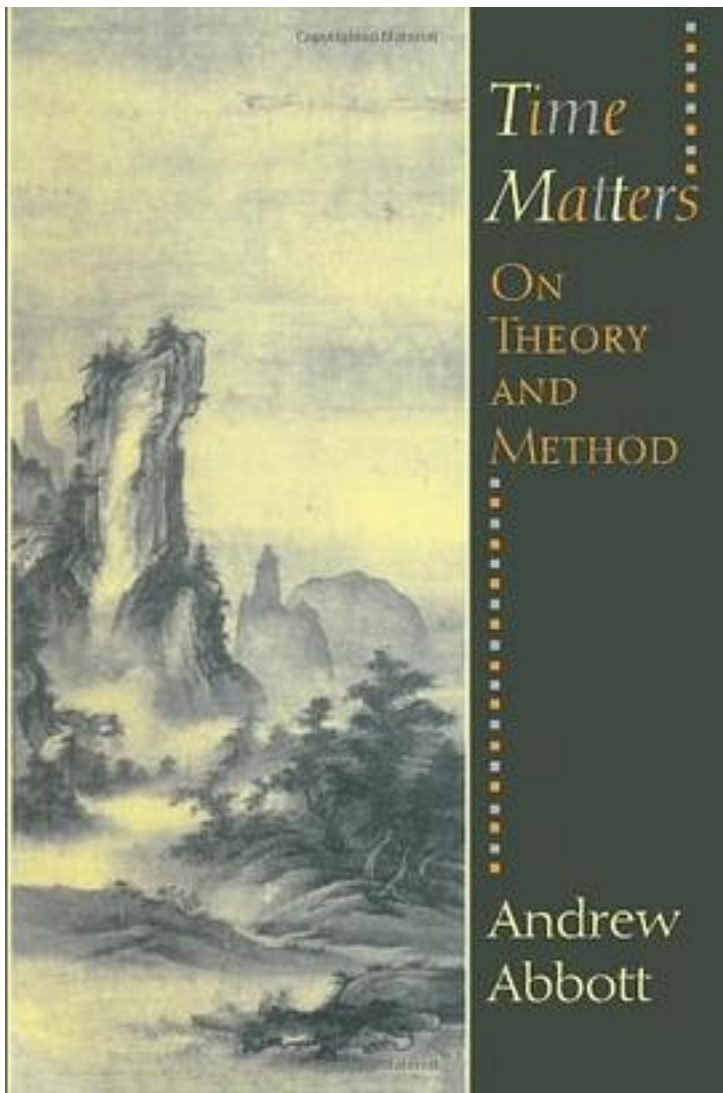


# Time Matters



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著者:Andrew Abbott

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What do variables really tell us? When exactly do inventions occur? Why do we always miss turning points as they transpire? When does what doesn't happen mean as much, if not more, than what does? Andrew Abbott considers these fascinating questions in *Time Matters*, a diverse series of essays that constitutes the most extensive analysis of temporality in social science today. Ranging from abstract theoretical reflection to pointed methodological critique, Abbott demonstrates the inevitably theoretical character of any methodology.

*Time Matters* focuses particularly on questions of time, events, and causality. Abbott grounds each essay in straightforward examinations of actual social scientific analyses. Throughout, he demonstrates the crucial assumptions we make about causes and events, about actors and interaction and about time and meaning every time we employ methods of social analysis, whether in academic disciplines, market research, public opinion polling, or even evaluation research. Turning current assumptions on their heads, Abbott not only outlines the theoretical orthodoxies of empirical social science, he sketches new alternatives, laying down foundations for a new body of social theory.

#### 作者介绍:

Andrew Abbott is the Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Sociology and the College at the University of Chicago. Abbott took his BA (in history and literature) at Harvard in 1970 and his PhD (in sociology) from Chicago in 1982. Prior to his return to Chicago in 1991, he taught for thirteen years at Rutgers University.

Known for his ecological theories of occupations, Abbott has also pioneered algorithmic analysis of social sequence data. He has written on the foundations of social science methodology and on the history of the social sciences and the academic system. He is the author of four books and fifty articles and chapters.

His major work includes *The System of Professions* (Chicago 1988), a theoretical analysis of the professions and their development that won the ASA's Sorokin Award in 1991. His recent books include an extensive historical study of academic disciplines and publication (*Department and Discipline* [Chicago, 1999]) and a theoretical analysis of fractal patterns in social and cultural structures (*Chaos of Disciplines* [Chicago 2001]). He has also published a collection of theoretical and methodological essays in the Chicago pragmatist and ecological tradition (*Time Matters* [Chicago 2001]). He is currently writing a short textbook of social science heuristics (*Methods of Discovery*, for W. W. Norton) and a book of general social theory, *Time and Social Structure*. He is also developing a major theoretical and empirical project on the life course.

An active teacher, Abbott has served on or chaired 53 dissertation committees. He served from 1993 to 1996 as Master of Chicago's Social Science Collegiate Division, and Chair of the Department of Sociology from 1999-2002. He has also edited *Work and Occupations* (1991-1994) and the *American Journal of Sociology* (2000- ). He is the incoming President of the Social Science History Association (2002/3).

目录: Acknowledgments
Prologue An Autobiographical Introduction
Part One Methods and Assumptions
1 Transcending General Linear Reality

2 Seven Types of Ambiguity

3 The Causal Devolution

Part Two Time and Method

4 What Do Cases Do?

5 Conceptions of Time and Events in Social Science Methods

6 From Causes to Events

Part Three Time and Social Structure

7 Temporality and Process in Social Life

8 On the Concept of Turning Point

9 Things of Boundaries

Epilogue Time Matters

References

Index

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评论

过程论框架需要完整的时间观念，于是一转身，30年过去了。

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A must read book. Wonderful

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一刷用了大半年…

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1. from methodological critiques to theory. 2. diachronic, narrative side of temporality in processual sociology.

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From cause to event 介绍了过程追踪的方法论背景，narrative in social science

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在这么早的时代就用上如此高级的分析方法，并把时间序列分析与其他模型的社会学意义思考的如此透彻，到现在读仍然是标杆，五体投地。感同身受这个研究领域是有多难以落地……

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