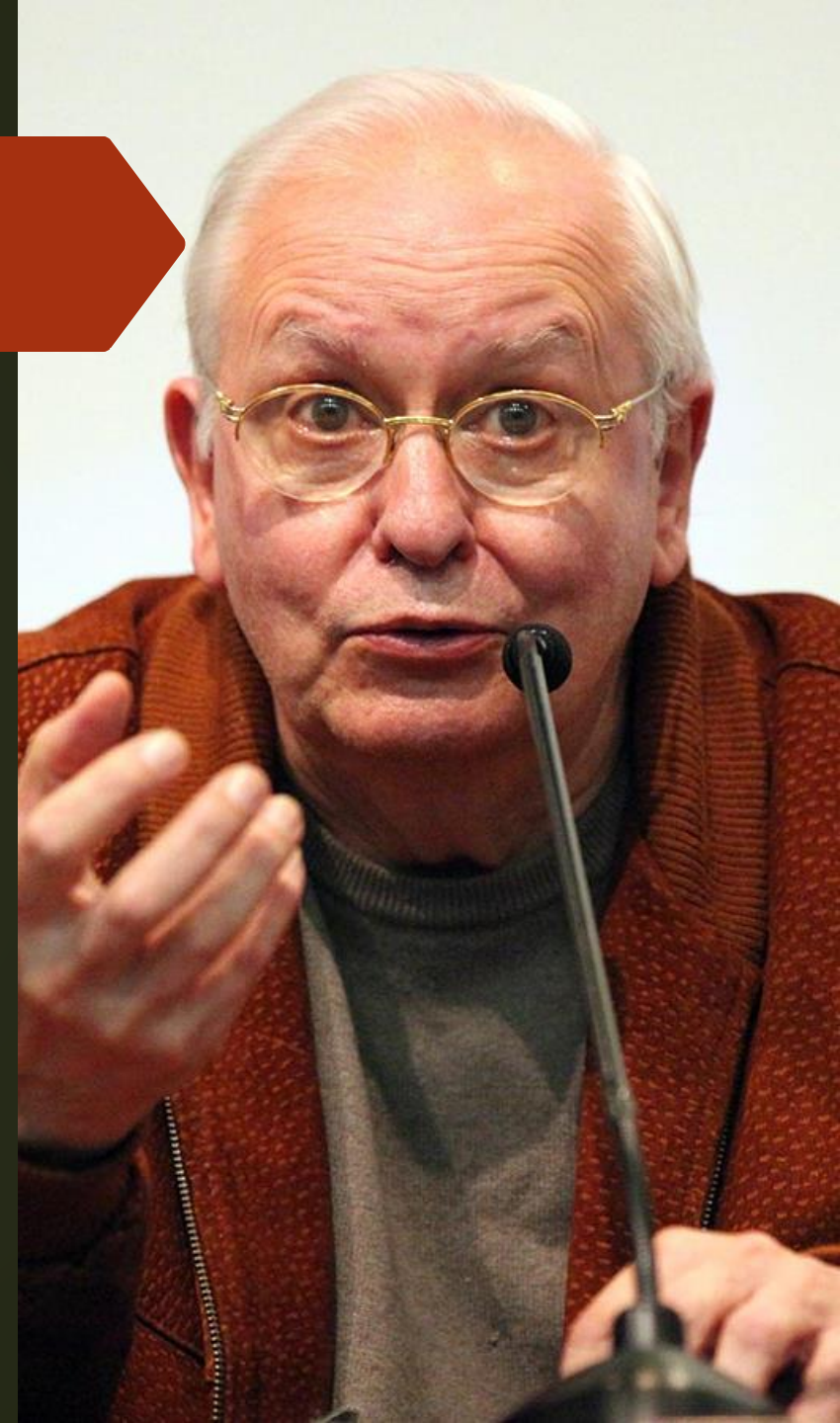


The emancipation of career – Tristram Hooley and Rie Thomsen

- Career as an 'empty signifier' (Laclau)
- Contested terminology with different meanings
- There is no single 'correct' meaning
- But rather 'career' is site of struggle between different ontological and epistemological positions
- The book will attempt to intervene in this struggle



Eras of the career concept

Era	Period	Concept: Career as...	Who benefits	Who loses out
Bildungsroman career	1760s-1909	...the ordered and scripted development of the lives of the few.	The elites	Workers and the poor
Career ladder	1909-1973	...progression up managed organisational hierarchies.	Men in the global north, particularly those working in corporate structure	Women and others who aren't on the corporate career ladder
Neoliberal career	1973-2008	...the entrepreneurial exercise of agency in pursuit of advantage	Agentic and well-resourced people	Those with limited resources and who have been made vulnerable
Career in crisis	2008-Present	...the safeguarding of a shrinking pool of opportunities	People in gated communities	Precarious workers (an ever growing group)
Emancipated career	Future	...the democratic path to the good life for the populace	The populace	Those who fear losing hegemony