

To wait and let wait. Reflections on the Problem of Social Imposition

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This presentation presents an attempt to phenomenologically conceptualize a specific kind of social relationship which is familiar to us all from everyday life: the relationship in which one person lets another person wait. Special emphasis is hereby laid on the aspect of power. Waiting in general is a consequence of the imposition of time, and so its study promises some insight in the basic mechanisms of social imposition and thus of exercising power. The concepts used for the analysis of the waiting-relationship are mainly adopted from Alfred Schutz's classic opus *The Phenomenology of the Social World*.