

## C. WRIGHT MILLS' - *THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION*

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The *sociological imagination* enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals.

The *sociological imagination* enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society.

The first fruit of this imagination – and the first lesson of the social science that embodies it – is the idea that the individual can understand one's own experience and gauge one's own fate only by locating oneself with his or her own period in time.

That, in brief, is why it is by means of the *sociological imagination* that men and women now hope to grasp what is going on in the world, and to understand what is happening to themselves as *minute points of the intersection of biography and history within society*.

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