

[Jonathan White](#)

## Rhythm and its absence in modern politics and music

**Article (Accepted version)  
(Refereed)**

**Original citation:**

White, Jonathan (2017) *Rhythm and its absence in modern politics and music*. [German Life and Letters](#), 70 (3). pp. 383-393. ISSN 0016-8777

DOI: [10.1111/glal.12162](https://doi.org/10.1111/glal.12162)

© 2017 The Author German Life and Letters © 2017 [John Wiley & Sons Ltd](#)

This version available at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/69144/>

Available in LSE Research Online: July 2017

LSE has developed LSE Research Online so that users may access research output of the School. Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may download and/or print one copy of any article(s) in LSE Research Online to facilitate their private study or for non-commercial research. You may not engage in further distribution of the material or use it for any profit-making activities or any commercial gain. You may freely distribute the URL (<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk>) of the LSE Research Online website.

This document is the author's final accepted version of the journal article. There may be differences between this version and the published version. You are advised to consult the publisher's version if you wish to cite from it.

# Rhythm and its Absence in Modern Politics and Music

Jonathan White (LSE)

Forthcoming, *German Life and Letters*  
(Special Issue in Memory of John James White)

*This piece reflects on the significance of periodic time structures in the institutions of modern democracy, drawing inspiration from the theorisation of rhythm in music. Three features of rhythm are discussed using the concepts of temporal integration, coordination and rationalisation. Each helps us understand how the institutionalisation of periodicity has helped underpin the democratic principle of legitimate opposition. As contemporary political developments tend to disrupt such rhythms, so legitimate opposition becomes harder to maintain.\**

Writing in 1960, the German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen observed the following of the western musical avant-garde of the mid-twentieth century:

‘Es sind in den letzten Jahren musikalische Formen komponiert worden, [...] bei denen man [...] keine Entwicklungsrichtung aus dem Gegenwärtigen mit Gewißheit voraussagen kann; [...] [Formen] in denen nicht rastlos ein jedes Jetzt als bloßes Resultat des Voraufgegangenen und als Auftakt zu Kommendem, auf das man hofft, angesehen wird, sondern als ein Persönliches, Selbständiges, Zentriertes, das für sich bestehn kann; Formen, in denen ein Augenblick nicht Stückchen einer Zeitlinie [...] sein muß [...].’<sup>1</sup>

Amongst the shifts in musical organisation he was describing was the appearance, in the work of Webern and others, of structures of rhythm that were highly irregular, discontinuous, perhaps even scarcely discernible. The effect of the disturbance of rhythm

---

\* I warmly thank the journal editors for arranging this special issue and for their input on my own paper. A first draft was presented at a workshop on ‘Time in Politics; Politics in Time: Historical and Normative Perspectives’ at Princeton University, 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

<sup>1</sup> ‘In recent years musical forms have been composed ... in which one cannot from the present predict with certainty the direction of development; [...] forms] in which each now is regarded not as a mere result of the immediately preceding one, or as the prelude to the approaching one that is expected – but rather as something personal, autonomous, centred, capable of existing on its own; forms in which an instant need not be a segment on a time-line ...’. Stockhausen 1963, pp.198-9 [author trans.].

was, he suggested, to detach the present moment from the past and future, to produce, as he put it, 'Konzentration auf das Jetzt'.<sup>2</sup>

Stockhausen's views on periodicity were shared by others involved in the experimental music of the time. The French composer Gérard Grisey would later put it as follows: 'Excessive discontinuity focus[es] our attention on the present moment, prevent[s] us from taking any kind of retrospective view, and put[s] a mute in our memory'.<sup>3</sup> Or as the American composer George Rochberg wrote: 'music [today] no longer exists in its former state of anticipation of the future. It projects itself as a series of present moments, holding up to aural perception each spatial image as the self-sufficient object of perception as it occurs, not as it will realise itself in some future event.'<sup>4</sup> To challenge the periodicity of music was, it seems, to challenge its experience as a unified whole.

If the *disruption* of periodic rhythm was intended by modern composers to dis-embed the present from its after and before, here lies one clue to how we might understand the *significance* of rhythm, both in music and perhaps more widely. That it might be a source of *temporal integration* is an idea others had earlier explored, including the philosopher John Dewey. In a discussion of the rhythmic form, Dewey observed its effect of connecting the experience of moments past and present with the expectation of those to come. 'Each beat,' he said, 'in differentiating a part within the whole, adds to the force of what went before while creating a suspense that is a demand for something to come.'<sup>5</sup> Through the alternation of contrasting elements, a larger whole emerges. Rhythm, he suggested, underpins the capacity to project backwards and forwards, to employ both memory and anticipation.

---

<sup>2</sup> 'Concentration on the now'. Stockhausen 1963, pp.199 [author trans.].

<sup>3</sup> Grisey 1987, p.253.

<sup>4</sup> Rochberg 1984, p.132.

<sup>5</sup> Dewey 1958, pp.160ff. On 'pre-audibility': Grisey 1987.

Though his observations appeared in a study of aesthetics, Dewey believed the object of his description was not just a property of music, literature, or the arts in general. ‘Rhythm,’ he wrote, ‘is a universal scheme of existence.’<sup>6</sup> It ‘holds science and art in kinship’,<sup>7</sup> bridging the social, aesthetic, and organic. If we follow the suggestion of Caroline Levine, rhythm may be seen as a *form* – a pattern recurring across a range of domains, irreducible to the elements composing it in a given setting.<sup>8</sup> At its simplest, rhythm is the ordered alternation of contrasting elements.<sup>9</sup> Sometimes the intervals of recurrence are quite uneven, as may be the case in literature. In other contexts the pattern of alternation is regular, as the term *periodicity* describes.

One domain outside the arts where the rhythmic form is central, albeit rarely theorised,<sup>10</sup> is that of politics. The institutionalisation of democracy in the modern world has widely relied on mechanisms that are periodic in structure to facilitate the contestation of power. To take two familiar examples, electoral rules establish a pattern of voting that – if not always evenly spaced – has a clearly cyclical structure. Timetables of assembly guide the proceedings of the legislature, so that debates are held and renewed on a regular basis. Electoral and parliamentary cycles are just two of the ways democracy bears a rhythmic structure. To be sure, the *non*-periodic has also been part of the story, especially in the context of such foundational acts as revolutions and constitutions. Rather than as part of a series, such events are generally construed as one-off moments, if successful then not to be repeated.<sup>11</sup> But for many of the institutions of modern democracy, a different temporality is to the fore, a politics of alternation and repetition – a politics, in other words, of rhythm.

---

<sup>6</sup> Dewey 1958, p.151.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* See also Bourdieu 1990, p.75, p.81.

<sup>8</sup> Levine 2014. Henri Lefebvre proposed adopting rhythm as a basic category of social analysis (Lefebvre 2004): his notes on ‘rhythmanalysis’ remained very much in sketch form however.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.britannica.com/art/rhythm-music>. See also Young and Schuller 1988, pp.14ff.; Hamilton & Paddison 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Though see Linz 1998, Schedler & Santiso 1998, Goodin 1998, Thompson 2004; Laux & Rosa 2015.

<sup>11</sup> There is, of course, much more to be said on the temporality of both revolutions and constitutions, but this simple contrast will do for our purposes.

Indeed, if we ask whether this arrangement has a discernible rationale, it is striking that an important aspect is again captured by the notion of temporal integration. In the political setting, one of the effects of the institutionalisation of periodicity is to establish relations between moments in time such that collectively they form a series. Electoral cycles, debating calendars, and recurring set-piece events – Prime Minister’s Questions, for example – are all mechanisms establishing links between instances of contestation, allowing each to be located in a larger frame. They serve to integrate the political process, in a larger, stable whole or pattern, such that it is visibly more than a disparate set of isolated clashes.

This temporal embedding of the present is crucial for the adversarial dimension of democracy. The state of anticipation, specifically of future opportunities when decision-making and its justification can be contested, is constitutive of how we typically understand *political opposition*. It is the prospect of opportunities to criticise, influence, or reverse decisions that gives parties reason to develop programmatic alternatives. It is also what motivates the acceptance of undesired decisions – what the political scientists call ‘losers’ consent’.<sup>12</sup> Periodicity casts the shadow of impermanence on decision-making:<sup>13</sup> it gives reason to pursue alternatives, and to see defeat as something other than mere capitulation. There is a chance to fight another day.

The institutionalisation of periodicity also integrates in the backward-looking direction. It lends political conflict a discernible past, allowing the conflicts of the present to be related to previous encounters. Institutional cycles provide the conditions for comparison and narrativisation: they are resources for political *memory*.<sup>14</sup> Other features of democracy bolster the continuity of opposition – ideological traditions, and enduring organisations like parties – yet each needs the recurring visibility that

---

<sup>12</sup> E.g. Anderson et al. 2005.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. Palonen 2008, p.39; also Linz 1998.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Orr 2015, ch. 3, on the phenomenology of electoral experience.

institutions on the periodic model provide. As in other domains, the absence or disruption of rhythm in politics serves to detach the present from its larger context, to the detriment of democratic practice.

We may trace further the parallels between musical and political rhythm. Before anyone sought to disrupt the periodicity of modern music so as to isolate each moment in time<sup>15</sup> – before, that is, the question of temporal integration arose – rhythm in western music arguably served a more basic function, that of the *coordination* of performance. Rising attention to periodicity, in the composition of music and especially its notation, developed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in tandem with an increase in its coordinative demands. Polyphonous works featuring multiple parts, and increasingly intended for dancing, encouraged and indeed demanded greater precision in the temporal component.<sup>16</sup> The use of rhythm to create points of reference was, amongst other things, a means to solve a practical problem. To the extent that it is periodic in structure – i.e. to the extent there is regularity in the alternation of elements – rhythm allows expectations about the future to form, on the basis of which coordination between agents becomes possible. Periodicity provides the resources for joint action.

In the institutions of politics, one of the early examples of periodicity can likewise be read as contributing to the coordination of action. The historical origins of the parliamentary cycle can be traced to efforts to constrain monarchy in early modern Europe.<sup>17</sup> The English parliamentarians of the reign of Charles I, faced with a period of rule in which no parliament was called – the so-called 11-year tyranny – insisted as part of their settlement with the King on a more regularised system in which parliaments would be called every three years. The Triennial Act of 1641 counters, with precise stipulations, the uncertainty of open time horizons:

---

<sup>15</sup> Cf. Stockhausen, ‘Momentforme’.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. Latham 2011 (entry on rhythm) on the rise of sophisticated notation systems demanding precision in duration.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Palonen 2008, p.106; Riescher 1994, pp.51ff.

‘... For the p[re]vention of the like mischeifs and inconveniences in time to Comme. If no Parliament summoned before the 16th Sept. in the 3rd Year after the last Day of the last Sitting, then the Parliament to assemble at Westminster in the Manner, and by the Means, and at the Time hereafter mentioned.’<sup>18</sup>

While this move to give temporal order to the proceedings of state has more than one significance – we shall return to it in connection with *legitimacy* – at its most basic it was a way to *coordinate* opposition. By establishing a set of periodic rules within which the King should operate, parliamentarians moved from being a geographically dispersed set of individuals, assembled (or not) on an *ad hoc* basis, to a potentially coherent collective agent.

The rhythms of modern democracy have not always been as precisely determined as those imposed on King Charles. While some states have adopted fixed electoral cycles – the US, Sweden or Germany – others make do with a range within which a vote must occur.<sup>19</sup> The duration of alternation then varies. Yet still the rhythmic form provides limits to uncertainty<sup>20</sup> and reference-points for planning and budgeting. It guides opposition forces as to when they should concentrate their resources and seek unity; equally it creates phases of ‘down-time’, e.g. just after an election, when groups may consciously waive the need for unity because an interlude before the next election can be expected. Such phases create opportunities for intra-party debates that, absent the rhythmicity of institutions, would have particular risks attached.

Such reference-points for coordination are important not just for the effectiveness of opposition but for its inclusiveness. Where the timing of contestation is patterned, it is less likely to be dominated by the most organised groups, who can afford the permanent

---

<sup>18</sup> ‘An Act for the preventing of inconveniencies happening by the long intermission of Parliaments’, in *Statutes of the Realm: Volume 5, 1628-80*, ed. John Raithby (s.l, 1819), pp.54-57.

<sup>19</sup> Orr 2015; Palonen 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Zerubavel 1985, p.12. Cf. Riescher 1994, p.69.

mobilisation that irregular timing demands. Scholars of US politics have observed that voter turnout is higher when elections to different chambers are clustered on a single periodic cycle, and lower when these elections are timed irregularly or divided across different cycles.<sup>21</sup> Periodicity and equality of participation seem linked.

Note also that it is by making the timing of contestation *independent* of other events in the life of the polity that institutional rhythms help coordinate opinion as competing general outlooks, of the kind one associates with party programmes. Where contestation proceeds *ad hoc*, in response to issues and events as they arise, it will generally focus on the particularities of the situation. For systematic contestation at the level of principle, the institutionalisation of periodicity, and thus of an exogenous political time-scale, is likely to be a major resource.

I have spoken of two major contributions of the periodic form – temporal *integration*, and *coordination*. There is a third that may be expressed with the term *rationalisation*. By the grouping and spacing of elements, periodic rhythm creates a structure in which each part has its place. To cite Dewey again in his discussion of rhythm: ‘there is a wealth of suggestion in the phrase “takes place”. The change not only comes but it belongs; it has its definite place in a larger whole.’<sup>22</sup> More than just an aid to coordination and integration, rhythm establishes that each part *belongs*. In this way it creates expectations that are normative, not just predictive in character.

Anthropologists have referred to the ‘temporal anchoring of normality’.<sup>23</sup> What falls within a periodic structure has its legitimate presence undergirded thereby, just as what interrupts such a structure takes the form of a provocation. Where temporal regularity is absent, the normative scheme is correspondingly looser. Again, this is a feature of rhythm across its many domains. Music theorists have spoken of ‘repetition

---

<sup>21</sup> Cf. Anzia 2013, who develops this observation into an argument for synchronising elections.

<sup>22</sup> Dewey 1958, pp.160ff.

<sup>23</sup> Zerubavel 1985, p.20.

schemes as a rationalisation of time,<sup>24</sup> and of the rationalising effects of rhythm in the work of particular composers.<sup>25</sup> The periodic structure evokes, we may say, a rule-bound order and an accompanying set of normative expectations.

This dimension is of special importance for democracy. By cultivating the expectation that political opposition will articulate itself at regular intervals, periodic institutions contribute to its *normalisation*. They make its expression part of the ordinary run of things, something for which space has been reserved. They contribute to the *legitimacy* of opposition.

When institutions are organised on a periodic basis, they operate to a timetable largely independent not just of specific events but of the will of particular agents. Opportunities for contestation arise not because they have been granted, or because an agent has had to extract them, but because a largely anonymous process requires it. The precision noted in the Triennial Act of 1641 introduces a measure of automaticity in the proceedings of representation. In this way rhythm may be said to anonymise responsibility for the timing of dissent.

This matters because the articulation of opposition usually results in decisions and their implementation being delayed. A parliamentary debate slows down the passage of a bill. Without regular slots set aside for it, dissent is liable to be cast as a blot on the efficiency of government. By marking out a relatively autonomous temporal sphere, institutions organised periodically protect the practices of opposition from the intrusion of criteria such as efficiency that put their legitimacy in question. They allow critics to alleviate the time pressures they would otherwise be subject to by appealing to something standardised. They allow the de-personalisation of responsibility for delay.

Another way to say this is that institutionalised rhythms express the autonomy of democratic time. They establish a sequence of events that, while never wholly insulated

---

<sup>24</sup> Barry 1990, p.68. Cf. Berry 1976/1986, p.305 on rhythm as 'ordered time'.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. Ingarden 1986, p.96 on Bach.

from interference, is irreducible to the preferences of any one group. They sharpen the boundary, always precarious, between political processes and socio-economic interests.

*Integration, coordination and rationalisation* – with these categories we can form a provisional conclusion. Just as periodicity has been central to the structure of certain art forms, there are good reasons why it has been central to the institutions of democracy. To sketch the parallels between music and politics is not to deny there are aspects of the rhythmic form which are domain-specific. To mention just a few: there are aesthetic considerations, to do with harmony and unity of form, and the disruption of these qualities, that are central to the appreciation of rhythm in music but less so to its evaluation in politics. Likewise, there are differences in how rhythm is experienced – in a direct, even physical, fashion in music,<sup>26</sup> while through an act of imagination over the slower timescales of institutions. No-one – presumably – taps their foot to the electoral cycle. Furthermore, in some contexts rhythms can be contested – they become sites of a conflict of power – whereas in others they are taken as given. Such variations notwithstanding, the commonalities across domains are striking.

If rhythm has been central to the institutions of modern politics, what is its status today? Do we still live in an age in which periodicity supports the practice of democracy? I want to suggest things are moving in a different direction: that certain trends disrupt this relation, and for this reason pose a democratic challenge. Importantly, to the extent we see a disruption of periodicity, it is not, I suggest, just a secondary feature of a more fundamental process of democratic weakening. To emphasise the temporal structures in play is not just to emphasise an unfamiliar angle on a familiar story. Rather, it is *because* the institutions being marginalised are *periodic* that the democratic costs may be high.

---

<sup>26</sup> As described by the concept of ‘entrainment’.

As one major trend, I have in mind the rise of emergency-led decision-making, in which legislation is pursued as a response to urgent threats. In the economic crisis of the last ten years, executive decisions have frequently been taken rapidly and outside the timetables of representative politics. Think of financial transfers to support ailing banks, of policies announced on a Monday morning to reassure the markets.<sup>27</sup> It is not simply that the institutions involved may offer few opportunities to contest these decisions (though this may be true, especially of avowedly ‘independent’ institutions such as central banks). It is that, even where contestation is possible, it is often highly a-rhythmic in its timing. Being tightly linked to crisis conditions, such decisions are made quickly and are hard to reverse without re-evoking the spectre of crisis. They present themselves as exceptional, one-off decisions.

The fact that crises tend to cross borders means the rise of emergency-led decision-making is typically also the rise of *transnational* decision-making. The recent economic crisis has largely been handled this way, including through institutions associated with the European Union. Here there is no dominant periodic cycle: the timing of decisions in the Council is shaped rather by the constraints of international diplomacy. The European Parliament is too weak to impose its own rhythm, and one effect of transnationalisation is to highlight the a-synchrony of rhythms across countries. Because national elections in EU states do not occur simultaneously, decisions coordinated transnationally fall at different moments in national cycles. This mismatch reinforces cross-cutting boundaries and encourages the fragmentation of dissent.<sup>28</sup> It is not that the rhythms of national democracy disappear, but they lack structuring capacity at the newly relevant transnational level.

---

<sup>27</sup> Cf. White 2014, 2015a, 2015b.

<sup>28</sup> On asynchrony as boundary-reinforcing: Zerubavel 1985, p.67. On the EU’s heterotemporality: Goetz 2009.

Dissent is still raised in these circumstances, but according to a quite different temporality. In the quest to reassert themselves, opposition voices will be tempted to detach themselves from the periodic institutions of representative democracy and seek expression in non-periodic form. Street protests are one manifestation. These typically rely on ideas of immediacy. The name and practices of the ‘Occupy’ movement suggest the single encounter maintained indefinitely, not a series of repeated clashes. Theirs is not the temporality of rhythm but that of the attempt to establish continuous presence.

Referenda are another non-periodic form. The referendum of July 2015 in Greece on the bail-out measures demanded by the country’s creditors is one example. Calls for referenda, and the campaigns once underway, generally involve the idea of politics as a *one-off*. They invoke, as in the Greek case, the language of the ‘historic opportunity’<sup>29</sup> and the ‘critical juncture’<sup>30</sup> – of the moment that comes only once, of actions now or never. The emphasis is on an opportunity to contest that is *not* to be repeated, at least to a foreseeable timetable. Emergency parliamentary debates follow the same logic.

These forms of opposition departing from the periodic model have evident appeal as ways to challenge executive power under present conditions. Being weakly constrained by the electoral cycle and other institutional rhythms, they are well suited to rapid mobilization in response to emergency decisions. Equally, street protests, strikes and the like can be organized cross-nationally exactly because they are separate from the non-synchronised cycles of institutions.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the democratic energy such non-periodic actions may unleash. As well as mobilising people to a particular cause at a particular time, they may spill over into more enduring forms of political organisation. But can

---

<sup>29</sup> Tsipras, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015: <http://www.primeminister.gov.gr/english/2015/07/01/prime-minister-alexis-tsipras-message/>

<sup>30</sup> Tsipras, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 <http://www.primeminister.gov.gr/english/2015/06/28/prime-minister-alexis-tsipras-statement-concerning-on-the-latest-developments/>

they feasibly *substitute* for institutions on the periodic model? Our preceding remarks suggest reasons to be doubtful.

First, one suspects the *integration* of opposition across time suffers where periodic institutions are weak. If political cycles serve to connect present conflicts with those of the past and future, the disruption of these rhythms conversely focuses attention on the present and detaches it from a larger context. Empirical studies of transnational administrative elites suggest their time horizons are increasingly foreshortened: their work becomes a matter of managing the immediate present rather than planning for a longer-term future.<sup>31</sup> For political opposition, faced with the additional task of communicating its activities to a wider public, the effects of shortened time-horizons are likely to be especially severe. It becomes harder to reveal the stakes of individual decisions by locating them in an historical context, and to mobilise supporters by cultivating anticipation of the next encounter.

Then there are the challenges of *coordination*. When opportunities for contestation occur on an irregular basis, opposition must be ready to mobilise at any moment. It must adopt a stance of permanent vigilance, and find ways to ensure participation is not dominated by those most able to maintain this stance. It must also find ways to coordinate at the level of general principle. Temporally irregular forms of mobilisation, be they protests or referendum campaigns, tend to be broad coalitions of opinion given unity by their relation to particular issues and decisions. Not only do they therefore form episodes isolated in time, but, lacking a temporal structure that is independent of events as they occur, they tend to be reactive and impromptu, bound up in the details of the moment. For the same reason, even where they can adequately contest decisions, they are less able to contest the decisions *not* taken, for which agents must abstract from the passage of events.

---

<sup>31</sup> Ekengren 2002.

Finally, most importantly, with these irregular forms of contestation there is the problem of how to maintain the *legitimacy* of opposition. Street protests, referenda and citizens initiatives, as well as *ad hoc* parliamentary debates – the fact they are all un-timetabled gives the expression of opinion they afford the character of an *interruption*, of an intrusion on the business of governing. For the very reason that they stand outside the normal passage of institutional time, they can present themselves as a distraction from efficient rule, and their initiators as the instigators of delay.

What we are seeing then in today's politics is recourse to forms departing from the periodic model, ones democratically less adequate as a result. Though adopted for plausible reason, as ways to contest increasingly irregular styles of executive power, these non-periodic modes struggle to give expression to the democratic principle of legitimate opposition. Institutionalising this principle has relied on a certain temporal structure: a sequence of alternating elements that provides reference-points for coordination, resources to link present with past and future, and opportunities for dissent that are embedded in the normal passage of political time.

The disruption of rhythm in modern – avowedly progressive – music was an experiment in dislocating the listener and forcing her back on her own interpretive resources. It involved asserting the singularity of each moment and disrupting its relation to what preceded it and would follow, such that the listener would be immersed in the present. Sometime soon, if not already, the modern citizen may find herself in an analogous situation, but in the political context the implications seem *regressive*. An impoverished form of democracy seems the likely outcome. The question then would be whether the periodicity of institutions can be rebuilt, either on the scale of the nation-state, or, if not, then at some other level.

## References

- Anderson et al. (2005), *Losers' Consent: Elections and Democratic Legitimacy* (Oxford: OUP).
- Anzia, Sarah F. (2013), *Timing and Turnout: How off-cycle elections favor organized groups* (Chicago: U. of Chicago).
- Barry, Barbara (1990), *Musical Time: The Sense of Order* (New York: Pendragon).
- Berry, Wallace (1976/1986). *Structural Functions in Music* (New York: Dover).
- Bourdieu, Pierre (1990), *The Logic of Practice* (Stanford: SUP).
- Dewey, John (1958), 'The Natural History of Form', in Dewey, *Art as Experience* (New York: Capricorn), pp.134-62.
- Ekengren, Magnus (2002), *The Time of European Governance* (Manchester: MUP).
- Goetz, Klaus. H. (2009) 'How does the EU tick? Five propositions on political time', *Journal of European Public Policy* 16 (2).
- Goodin, Robert E. (1998), 'Keeping Political Time: The Rhythms of Democracy', *International Political Science Review* 19 (1).
- Grisey, Gerard (1987), 'Tempus ex machina', *Contemporary Music Review* 2 (1).
- Hamilton, Andy & Max Paddison (eds.) (2016), *The Philosophy of Rhythm: Aesthetics, Music, Poetics* (Oxford: OUP).
- Ingarden, Roman (1986), *The Work of Music and the Problem of Its Identity* (Berkeley: U. of California)
- Latham, Alison (ed.) (2011), *The Oxford Companion to Music* (Oxford: OUP).
- Laux, Henning and Rosa, Hartmut (2015), 'Clockwork Politics. Fünf Dimensionen politischer Zeit', *Leviathan: Berliner Zeitschrift für Sozialwissenschaft*, Sonderband 30/2015.
- Lefebvre, Henri (2004), *Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life* (London: Continuum).
- Levine, Caroline (2014), *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network* (Princeton: PUP).
- Linz, Juan J. (1998), 'Democracy's Time Constraints', *International Political Science Review* 19 (1).
- Orr, Graeme (2015), *Ritual and Rhythm in Electoral Systems: A Comparative Legal Account* (Farnham: Ashgate).
- Palonen, Kari (2008), *The Politics of Limited Times: The Rhetoric of Temporal Judgment in Parliamentary Democracy* (Baden-Baden: Nomos).
- Riescher, Gisela (1994), *Zeit und Politik: Zur institutionellen Bedeutung von Zeitstrukturen in parlamentarischen und präsidentiellen Regierungssystemen* (Baden-Baden: Nomos).
- Rochberg, George (1984), *The Aesthetics of Survival: A Composer's View of Twentieth-Century Music* (Ann Arbor: U. of Michigan).
- Schedler, Andreas and Javier Santiso (1998), 'Democracy and time: an invitation', *International Political Science Review* 19 (1), pp.5–18.
- Stockhausen, Karlheinz (1963), 'Momentforme', in *Texte zur elektronische und instrumentale Musik*, vol. 1 (Cologne: M. Du Mont Schauberg).
- Thompson, Dennis (2004), 'Election Time: Normative Implications of Temporal Properties of the Electoral Process in the United States', *American Political Science Review* 98 (1).
- White, Jonathan (2015a), 'Emergency Europe', *Political Studies* 63 (2), pp.300-18.
- White, Jonathan (2015b), 'Authority after Emergency Rule', *Modern Law Review* 78 (4), pp.585-610.
- White, Jonathan (2014), 'Politicising Europe: The Challenge of Executive Discretion', in Sara Hobolt and Olaf Cramme (eds.), *Democratic Politics in a European Union under Stress* (Oxford: OUP).
- Young, Michael and Tom Schuller (1988), *The Rhythms of Society* (London: Routledge).
- Zerubavel, Eviatar (1985), *Hidden Rhythms: Schedules and Calendars in Social Life* (Berkeley: UCP).