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### **Cultural Workers and Social Class**

This paper considers workers in the cultural industries in terms of what Erik Olin Wright has called 'the problem of the middle class' – people who do not own their own means of production, but who do not see themselves as part of the working class. We need to understand cultural workers as occupying 'contradictory locations within class relations'. This allows us to move beyond the idea that workers in the cultural industries are privileged, and therefore not worthy of analysis, or of political support. A careful sociological analysis also potentially allows us to distinguish between different social class positions among workers in the cultural industries, allowing us to theorise better the possibilities for cross-class alliances in the defence of better working conditions. These issues are related to the problem of 'good work' in modern societies – a key theme in recent social theory.