I examine in this thesis 1) what kind of changes have occurred in the labour relations and terms of employment of restaurant musicians since the 1920's and how the people of this industry have succeeded in attending to their interests in labour policy, 2) the relationship between alcohol policy and labour policy from the point of view of musicians and 3) what kind of lifestyles of musicians exist?


When analysing the interviews of restaurant musicians I found tripartition: the period of discipline (1919-1949), the period of civilisation (1950-1989) and the period of market discipline (1990-) As early as in the 1920's and on, restaurant musicians have been forced to work, in many ways, in atypical employment relationships that are marked with globalization and postmodernism characteristic to our society. Division of paid labour between a growing number of people and the increase on temporary jobs create a totally new situation in the labour market, as a great part of the labour force has to make their living by working temporarily in the same way as freelance musicians and possibly gain the rest from the social security aid. Also, traditional politics are giving way to life politics.

After observing the changes in the nature of work of restaurant musicians, one can conclude that there is a true reason to be worried. After all, the whole industry of restaurant musicians, at least in the original meaning of the word, has ceased to exist.