



ILPC 2017

RECONNECTING WORK
& POLITICAL ECONOMY

The 34th International Labour Process Conference 2017
'Re-Connecting Work and Political Economy'
Special Stream Call for Papers

Digital Transformations of Work: Labouring in the Digital Economy

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Digital technologies have provided the links for multinational companies (MNCs) and global production networks (GPNs) to shift production across organisational and national boundaries, creating new global divisions of labour and removing work from nationally-constituted regulatory frameworks. Increasingly, online labour markets such as Upwork, PeoplePerHour, and Amazon Mechanical Turk offer the platform infrastructure for the outsourcing of work and the managerialisation of freelancing and independent work at a distance, posing challenges to working time, value and control (Bergvall-Kåreborn & Howcroft, 2014).

Recent studies have attempted to theorise transformations to contemporary work in terms of a digital political economy (e.g. Huw's, 2014; Dyer-Withford, 2015). From this perspective, the discussion of labour has, on the one hand, reasserted a materialist analysis (Warhurst, Thompson & Nickson, 2008) of concepts such as immaterial labour and the knowledge economy in the face of the impoverishment, precarity and crisis experienced by those labouring in digital economies; and, on the other, uncovered new challenges for the study of work and for workers' organisation and resistance, for example, the use of data storing, processing and communications technologies as forms of productivity measurements in the workplace (Moore and Robinson, 2015).

This stream will question the implications of this evolution from a labour process perspective. This stream will be the point of contact between scholars researching

digital transformations of work from the sociology of work, management and organisation studies, with the potential to involve others from cultural studies, critical media theory and the sociology of media where many discussions of digital labour have until now taken place.

We welcome contributions that examine:

- New employment relations in the “gig” or “platform” economy (e.g. Uber; Deliveroo);
- Crowdsourcing and new forms of labour;
- “Gamification” and the distinction between work, labour and play;
- The integration of data, digital metrics and algorithms into work processes;
- Control and data-related managerialisation;
- Digitisation and the potential to measure previously intangible aspects of work;
- Digital technologies, workplace flexibility and the intensification and extensification of labour;
- The commodification of digital labour and free or unpaid labour in online regimes of accumulation;
- New jobs, new professional identities;
- Resistance and trade union organisation;
- Policy and regulation of digitally mediated work;
- Methodological challenges and how to study digital work.

We also welcome abstracts from researchers who are concerned with exploring and theorizing the reconfiguration of work as a result of digitisation.

Potential contributions may include:

- empirical research that looks at processes of digitisation on work;
- empirical research that studies new forms of labour brought about by digitisation/digital technologies;
- theoretical papers that consider how we might conceptualise digital labour, or the digitisation of labour from a labour process perspective;
- theoretical papers on the political economy of platforms;
- methodological papers on how to address the study of labour in the digital transformation.

Submissions via the web-site www.ilpc.org.uk closing date 21st October 2016.