

*Crowdwork and platform work: new strategies to organise in Europe*

The breakthrough of digital labour platforms and, more broadly, the gig economy in the context of the Fourth industrial revolution seems to point to the end of the salary-based work, also signalling the full liberalization of services and the spread of competition worldwide (Drahokoupil, 2015). In a context of digitalisation and globalisation, the use of online platforms for managing work, has led to intense precariousness of labour relations, creating profound changes regarding the structure of employment, where collective action and organization of workers face new obstacles.

Digital labour platforms are transforming the workplace and reorganizing work, becoming new players in the temporary staffing industry (van Doorn, 2017). While casualization or gig work is not new, the use of technology to manage a precarious workforce and offer their services to the labour market represents a novelty for the labour market. This platform economy has brought a new player into the labour markets: the 'crowd', available 24/7 all or almost all over the globe and prepared to work at often very low rates (Degryze, 2017). Through the use of algorithms, digital platforms match workers with businesses, allowing companies to find talent more rapidly, reducing search costs, managing work processes and engage in pervasive and rigid surveillance panopticon system (Akhtar et al., 2018; ILO, 2021; Roque, 2021). Nevertheless, very little is known about workers in these digital platforms, especially regarding how their relationships are established, how do they organize and how do they access social support. These new 'collaborative' platforms organize work devaluing it through the illusory of a non-working relationship of their workers who have been transformed into independent service providers, competing with each other, and, allegedly, not subject to the hierarchy the company (Boavida et al., 2019; Boavida et al., 2021).

Nevertheless, emerging patterns of representation and collective voice and new synergies between the organizational capacity of the most conventional forms are arising (Vandaele, 2018). The increasing use of disruptive capacity by these workers points to an associative power that derives from their self-organization, combining cyberactivism with grassroots protests to gain 'voice' and bargaining power (Estanque et al., 2018). Technologies of information and communication can be used as forms of recruitment and mobilization, contributing to the

revitalization of the trade union movement (Diamond and Freeman, 2002). Social networks can provide a sense of community for dialogue between delegates and workers, where they can discuss and anonymously pose their questions and receive community-oriented messages (Roque, 2021). This special issue intends to contribute to the emerging literature on digitalization and its impact on work and workers' organization. We would like to receive case studies with a focus on scientific and public debates, as well as on the most prominent initiatives, actions, protests, and conflicts related with organizing digital platform workers and freelancers in crowdwork and digital labour platforms. The key themes featured in this issue are the relationship between the use of digital communication technologies and power relationships, working conditions of digital and crowdworkers, and forms of collective action., also discussing the implications of digitalization of work for future research.

*Keywords: Digital Labour platforms; Crowd-work; Trade unions; Alternative movements; Organization*

Abstract and Keywords: Author(s) should include an abstract of approximately 150 words and supply 5-8 keywords.

Length submissions: Special issue articles - 5,000-8,000 words

Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition)

Deadline: 31 August 2021

Request for further information about this Call for Papers can be sent to the organizer

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