

New Technology, Work and Employment

Call for Papers

WORK, EMPLOYMENT AND RESISTANCE IN TRANSPORTATION PLATFORMS – THEORETICAL APPROACHES, EMPIRICAL INSIGHTS AND CRITICAL REFLECTIONS

Transportation platforms have grown rapidly in the last decade. From private hire drivers, food delivery, and logistics these platforms have reorganised forms of pre-existing forms of transport work through apps and digital platforms. This includes companies like Uber, Ola, Deliveroo, Meituan, and Swiggy. Alongside this growth, there have been widespread protests and strikes by platform workers. It has been six years since the first strike at Deliveroo – which has now gone on to become the most protested platform in the world. Waves of strikes and protests have spread internationally across transportation platforms, along with legal and regulatory challenges over the use of self-employment status.

Against this backdrop, there has been a wide proliferation of research on platform work and the gig economy. The literature has grown in many directions, including analysing the political economy (Srnicek, 2017), legal status (Aloisi, 2016; Kuhn and Maleki, 2017; De Stefano, 2019), and debates beyond employment and management (Malin and Chandler, 2016). We now know much about the labour process and organisation of the work (Woodcock and Graham, 2019; Heiland, 2021a), the use of technology (Wood et al., 2018; Veen et al., 2019; Ruiner and Klumpp, 2022), new forms of algorithmic management (Lee et al., 2015; Rosenblat and Stark, 2016; Rosenblat, 2018; Duggan et al., 2020), and worker organising (Tassinari and Maccarone, 2020; Maffie, 2020; Woodcock, 2021; Vandaele, 2021; Woodcock and Cant, 2022). *New Technology, Work and Employment* has published substantial articles engaging with these debates and ideas (Galière, 2020; Shapiro, 2020; Franke and Pulignano, 2021; Heiland, 2021b; Huang, 2022; Gerber 2022).

While many of these studies provide insights into the general dynamics of transportation platform work, a broader critical and theoretical analysis of the developments is required to understand the relation between work, employment and worker resistance in transportation platforms.

The growing platformisation of work includes food delivery, private hire driver transportation, logistics more widely, domestic work, care work, online microwork, and online freelancing. The rapid development of grocery delivery platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how this model can still attract significant venture capital funding and speculation. At the same time, there have been many struggles in transportation platform work. These have provided a testing ground for new forms of organising that are important for understanding the dynamics in wider platform work, as well as the possibilities and directions for collective organising. Transportation platforms highlight the contested visions for the future of work, with different versions being implemented across national or regional contexts.

This special issue in *New Technology, Work and Employment* aims to move the literature on transportation platform work forward with a collection of pieces that debate the theoretical

significance of these technological changes on work and its organisation. We would particularly like to encourage papers that focus on the following in relation to transportation platform work:

- New empirical case studies that deepen or challenge existing literature in the sense that they provide further theoretical understanding, engage with wider theoretical debates, or map out new terrain
- Develop theoretical arguments that put forward new claims
- Empirical comparisons between different national or regional contexts
- Case studies of worker protests or organising that engage with wider theoretical debates
- Research that engages with debates on migration, race, gender, and oppression at work
- Analysis of the legal strategies that have been used by workers and organisations
- Critical reflections on the debates so far and the different theoretical approaches applied

We invite interdisciplinary approaches from a range of methodological approaches and contributions from the global south.

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the NTWE author guidelines, and need to be submitted through the online submission system of NTWE: <https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/NTWE>.

The deadline for the submission of papers is **31st January 2023**. When submitting, it is important that you clearly state that your submission is intended for the special issue. Submissions should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

For informal inquiries or further information, please email: Jamie Woodcock (jamie.woodcock@open.ac.uk) and/or Caroline Ruiner (caroline.ruiner@uni-hohenheim.de)

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