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Call for Papers

International Conference

Reshaping Work in the Platform Economy

Amsterdam

October 19 & 20, 2017

Introduction

Over the last decade, platforms such as Uber, Helping, and Upwork have rapidly transformed the way we work and employ others, generate income, and make use of our free time. These platforms facilitate, business-to-consumer (B2C), business-to-business (B2B), as well as peer-to-peer (P2P) exchanges, lowering transaction costs and creating more - and more flexible - job opportunities in highly accessible labor markets. At the same time, they have been accused of operating in disregard of existing labor laws and local regulations that require compliance with occupational licenses and permits as well as safety inspections. Both sides agree, however, that platforms are genuine game changers. For this reason, it is crucial that these emerging entities - both as operational infrastructures and institutional actors - are studied from a variety of disciplinary angles, in order to better understand the opportunities and challenges they present to the future of work. How exactly are labor platforms instigating new forms of employment and self-regulation? What institutional norms, values, and rights are they disrupting or displacing, and to what extent should they be allowed to do so? Does the convenience and innovative character of their services require or justify a new regulatory framework or are existing regulations sufficient? Is the most significant innovation and transformation in labor markets occurring in the B2B, B2C, or in the P2P realm? Who is capturing most of the value generated by these new labor platforms? And, conversely, which groups find that the cards are increasingly stacked against them, or find themselves excluded from certain platform-mediated professional opportunities?

Topics

We welcome academics, business leaders, national and European law- and policymakers, representatives from the temporary staffing industry, platform companies, *and* platform workers to collectively discuss how digital platforms are reshaping work, income generation, labor rules, standards and routines, as well as corporate social responsibility and social security. Accordingly, scholars and other professionals are invited to present papers on a broad range of research topics that include, but are not restricted to:

- Labor law and policy in the platform economy - opportunities and challenges;
- Social security issues facing platform workers and new safety net provisions;
- Localized (self-)regulation of labor platforms and market access requirements;
- The changing nature/experience of work in the platform economy;
- Social inequality and discrimination in the platform economy;
- Automation of labor processes on digital platforms;
- New/emerging platform business models and organizational forms and their impact on labor relations

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Deadline for Abstracts

Those wishing to participate in the conference by presenting a paper are requested to submit a 500-word abstract by **June 1, 2017**. Applicants should include their title and institutional affiliation. Abstracts should be sent to **conference@eduworks-network.eu**. You may also contact Dr. Niels van Doorn (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Sofia Ranchordás (Leiden Law School) or Jovana Karanovic (University of Amsterdam) with any questions you may have about scholarly contributions to this conference.

Stakeholders wishing to participate actively in the planned roundtable should send an email with motivation and input plan to **conference@eduworks-network.eu** by June 1, 2017.

Location & Date

The conference “Reshaping Work” will take place in Amsterdam on October 19th and 20th, 2017. Amsterdam has recently positioned itself as a “Sharing City” that, in collaboration with ShareNL, works closely with a wide array of startups and international platforms to promote a fair and sustainable sharing economy. The exact location will be announced in few weeks.

More information will soon be available on: <https://www.reshaping-work.com/>

The conference is organized and supported by: Eduworks (Marie Curie project based at the University of Amsterdam), University of Amsterdam (Department of Media Studies), and University of Leiden (Leiden Law School, Institute of Public Law).

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