

Call for Papers: AAG 2023, 23–27 March, Denver Colorado

Feminist Labour Geographies and the Platform Economy
(Paper Session)

Organisers: Anna Oechslen (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space) & Isabella Stingl (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

Over the past few years, digital platforms have come to mediate a wide range of jobs, from location-based services, such as ride-hailing, cleaning or food delivery, to web-based services, including graphic design, translation and even medical consultation (cf. ILO 2021). The numerous geographical studies dealing with platform-mediated work have provided important insights into the often precarious working conditions as well as the socio-spatial (re)organisation of labour in the platform economy, both on a global and local scale (e.g. Graham & Anwar 2019; Wells et al. 2021). This session further contributes to the conversation by exploring **how perspectives from feminist labour geographies can broaden and reframe existing understandings of the platform economy, its workers and the forms of work it is transforming.**

This approach prompts us to challenge narrow notions that define work only in terms of economic productivity and to pay greater attention to the close entanglements of platform work with a multitude of unpaid and often invisibilised activities of re/production (cf. Strauss & Meehan 2015; Mitchell et al. 2004). Exploring platform work from the lens of feminist labour geographies thus places workers' everyday lives at the centre of our analyses. This allows for a better understanding of workers' strategies in and beyond the economic sphere and enables the analysis of how platform work (re)shapes their spatio-temporal rhythms of work-life (cf. Dutta 2016; Reid-Musson 2018). Moreover, these lines of inquiry call for critical reflection on adequate methods to make visible platform workers' situated experiences, providing the possibility to voice their own geographies of work (cf. Rogaly & Qureshi 2016).

We welcome contributions dealing with these and related questions on both a theoretical and empirical level. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Conceptual and methodological frameworks to engage with **unwaged forms of work** in the platform economy
- Explorations of platform-based reconfigurations of **spaces of re/production** and un/waged work
- Studies on **care work** and/or the importance of **emotional and affective labour** in the platform economy
- Investigations of **the home** as a (digitally mediated) workplace
- Analyses of the influence of **categories of social difference** (race, class, age, gender, sexuality, citizenship/legal status, ability) on workers' experiences and strategies
- **Alternative imaginaries** of digitally mediated work and its potential to reshape existing relations of care and social reproduction

If interested, please send a short abstract (up to 300 words) to Anna Oechslen (anna.oechslen@leibniz-irs.de) and Isabella Stingl (isabella.stingl@wzb.eu) by **October 23, 2022**. Please indicate whether you prefer to participate in person or virtually. Participants will be notified about acceptance by October 31, 2022.

Works cited:

- Dutta, M. (2016). Place of life stories in labour geography: Why does it matter? *Geoforum*, 77, 1–4.
- Graham, M., & Anwar, M. A. (2019). The global gig economy: Towards a planetary labour market? *First Monday*, 24(4), <https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v24i4.9913>.
- ILO (2021). *World employment and social outlook: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work*. Geneva: ILO.
- Mitchell K., Marston S., & Katz C. (eds.) (2004). *Life's Work: Geographies of Social Reproduction*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Reid-Musson, E. (2018). Intersectional rhythmanalysis: Power, rhythm, and everyday life. *Progress in Human Geography*, 42(6), 881–897.
- Rogaly, B., & Qureshi, K. (2017). 'That's where my perception of it all was shattered': Oral histories and moral geographies of food sector workers in an English city region. *Geoforum*, 78, 189–198.
- Strauss, K., & Meehan, K. (2015). New frontiers of life's work. In Meehan K. & Strauss K. (eds.), *Precarious Worlds: Contested Geographies of Social Reproduction*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1–22.
- Wells, K. J., Attoh, K., & Cullen, D. (2021). "Just-in-Place" labor: Driver organizing in the Uber workplace. *Environment and Planning A*, 53(2), 315–331.