RESHAPING WORK

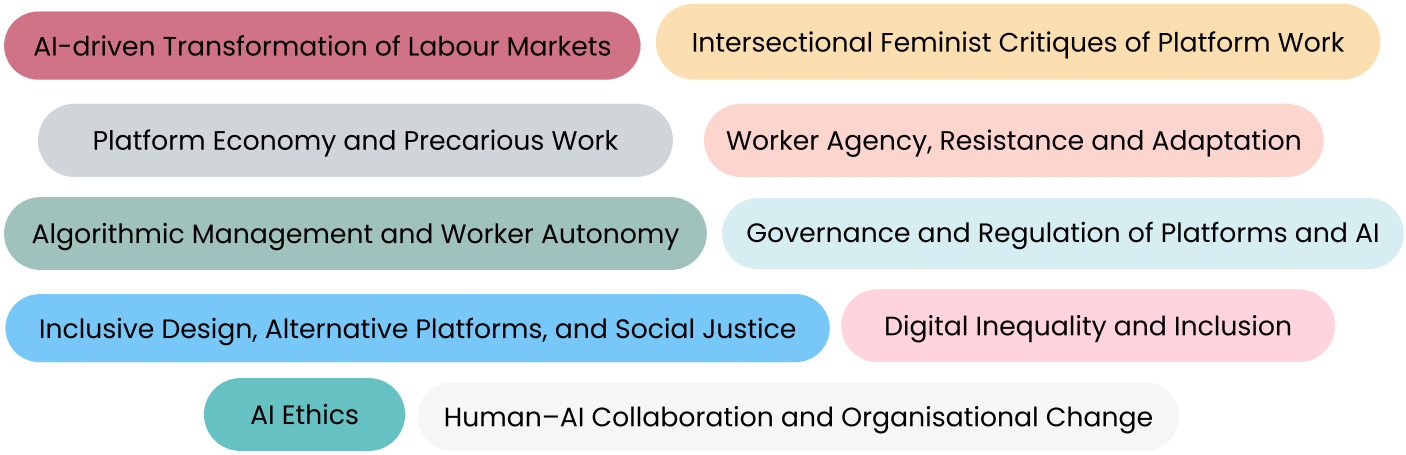
Call for Papers: AI, Platforms and the Future of Work

Online Conference | 10 September 2025

Rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and the proliferation of digital labour platforms are fundamentally reshaping how individuals and organisations work. From offices to gig economies, algorithmic systems now mediate a wide array of work practices, blurring the line between humans and machines. The recent breakthrough of generative AI technologies, such as ChatGPT which emerged in late 2022, have marked a turning point – individuals and organisations worldwide are experimenting with AI-driven tools to enhance productivity and create value. These developments present both unprecedented opportunities and pressing challenges for the future of work. How will AI augment human labour or render certain skills obsolete? How does platform-based work transform employment relations and job security? **While these technologies promise to shape the future of labour, their impacts on economic opportunity, job quality, and social equity are still uncertain and are the subject of academic debate.**

At this pivotal moment, critical inquiry is needed to guide our understanding and governance of AI-augmented, platform-mediated work. **This online 2025 conference** invites scholars and researchers across disciplines to explore the complex interplay of AI, digital platforms, and the future of work. We particularly encourage **interdisciplinary and intersectional approaches** that draw from various fields such as business, economics, sociology, law, anthropology, and others. **Feminist, postcolonial, and other critical perspectives** are explicitly welcomed to illuminate issues of power, inequality, and justice in the changing world of work. By bringing together diverse insights, this conference aims to foster a comprehensive discussion on harnessing the benefits of AI and platforms while addressing their ethical, legal, and societal challenges. **Contributors are encouraged to connect research with implications for policy, regulation and business practice, ensuring the dialogue remains relevant for different stakeholders.**

Topics of Interest



Submissions may address AI, platforms, and the future of work. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- **AI-driven Transformation of Labour Markets:** The impact of AI (including automation and generative AI) on employment, wages, and the nature of work – are we witnessing job displacement, the creation of new roles, or the augmentation of human labour? How do workers and economies adapt to AI-induced change?

- **Platform Economy and Precarious Work:** The evolution of the platform economy (gig work, crowdsourcing, online freelancing) and its implications for the future of work. Studies of how the platformisation of work is affecting job security, labour practices, and the blurring of boundaries between traditional employment and independent contracting.

- **Algorithmic Management and Worker Autonomy:** The role of algorithmic management in workplaces and on platforms – how algorithms assign tasks, evaluate performance, or set wages, and the consequences for worker autonomy, privacy, and well-being. Research on surveillance, data-driven HR, and the balance of power between workers and AI-driven management.

- **Intersectional Feminist Critiques of Platform Work:** How can an intersectional feminist lens reveal the ways AI-driven platform labour may reinforce or challenge existing gendered, racial, and class inequalities in the workforce? This topic invites analyses that centre the experiences of women, racialised communities, and other marginalized workers in the gig economy (especially in the post-COVID context), uncovering hidden forms of exploitation, precarity, or resistance in platform-mediated work and envisioning more equitable futures of work.

- **Inclusive Design, Alternative Platforms, and Social Justice:** How inclusive design principles or alternative platform models (e.g. worker cooperatives, collective governance platforms) can improve working conditions and address gender and racial inequalities in the platform economy? We welcome research on transdisciplinary, action-oriented approaches – such as co-created policies, participatory design with workers, and multi-stakeholder collaborations – that align platform work practices with social justice frameworks (e.g. the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals), fostering fair labour standards and greater worker agency.

- **Governance and Regulation of Platforms and AI:** Legal and policy frameworks for the digital future of work, including labour law responses to gig work (worker classification, rights and protections), data privacy and AI accountability in employment, and dispute resolution mechanisms. Analyses of platform governance strategies and the effectiveness of emerging regulations across different jurisdictions.

- **AI Ethics:** The ethical implications of AI in the workplace, such as algorithmic bias, discrimination, transparency, and accountability. Topics may include fairness in AI-driven recruitment or management, diversity and inclusion impacts, privacy concerns with worker data, and the development of ethical AI guidelines for organisations.

- **Human–AI Collaboration and Organisational Change:** The integration of AI tools into daily work practices and decision-making – new models of human–AI collaboration, hybrid teams, and changes in organisational culture or leadership. How are workplaces adapting (or resisting) AI-driven processes, and what new skills, expertise, and management approaches are required?

- **Worker Agency, Resistance and Adaptation:** How workers interpret, negotiate, and resist algorithmic control? Case studies of gig worker organising, labour activism, and formation of alternative organisational forms (e.g., platform cooperatives).

- **Digital Inequality and Inclusion:** The uneven distribution of opportunities and risks in the digital economy – who benefits and who is left behind? Topics may address the digital divide in access to AI tools and platform work, skill gaps and training needs, or how AI and platformisation may widen or bridge socio-economic inequalities across different communities.

These topics are offered as suggestions and are by no means exhaustive. We welcome both theoretical and empirical research. Comparative studies, as well as papers that bridge scholarship with policy or practice, are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines

- **Extended Abstract Submission:** Please submit **an extended abstract** of approximately **800 words** (excluding references) outlining your research question, methodology, and (expected) findings. Submissions should be written in English and formatted as a PDF.

- **How to Submit:** Extended abstracts should be submitted **via email to submissions@reshapingwork.net**. Ensure the title, author names, and affiliations are included. If multiple authors are involved, please indicate the corresponding author.

- **Deadline: 15 June 2025** – Extended abstracts must be received by this date for consideration.

- **Notification of Acceptance:** Authors will be notified of acceptance decisions by **15 July 2025.** Accepted abstracts will be invited for presentation at the conference (either oral presentation or poster, as determined by the programme committee).

- **Conference Presentation**: At least one author of each accepted paper is required to register for the conference and attend to present the work. The conference is scheduled to take place in an online format on **10 September 2025**. Detailed registration and programme information will be provided on the conference website.

- For any queries regarding the call or submission process, please contact the conference organisers at submissions@reshapingwork.net. We look forward to receiving your contributions and to a stimulating discussion on **AI, Platforms and the Future of Work** at the 2025 conference. Together, let us advance our understanding of these pivotal trends and help shape a future of work that is innovative, inclusive, and equitable.

This event is based upon work from COST Action <Platform Work Inclusion Living Lab, CA21118>, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.