

Workshop Work in the Digital Age: The challenges of platform firms

March 16, 17, 24, 2021

Timing 7am-10am PST, 5pm-8pm CET

Via Zoom (TBD)

The workshop addresses key aspects of the impact of the rising platform economy on work. It will start with a session on gig work and particularly the role of independent contractors. While self-employed gig workers are not a big share of the labour market, the regulation of independent contractors in labour law shapes the form and kind of classic platform firms and their business models. The second session addresses business models and business reorganization through platforms. A direct effect of platform firms goes through dependent entrepreneurs who use platforms to sell their services. The use of platforms in industry specific supply chains has started to be addressed in the scholarly literature and should be covered. There is however little knowledge and research in the German context. Finally, we will have a session on policy responses. The policy space on platform firms is presently discussed at the European and national levels. Moreover, anti-trust court cases are threatened or pursued.

March 16, 2021		
Session 1 - Setting the Stage: Why do platforms matter for labor? Beyond the Evident		
8:00am-9:30am PST, 5:00pm-6:30pm CET		
Chair	John Zysman	UC Berkeley
Commentator	Martin Kenney	UC Davis
Presenters	Koen Frenken	Utrecht University
	Juliet Schor	Boston College

March 16, 2021		
Session 2 - Work on the Platform		
9:30am-11:00am PST, 6:30pm-8:00pm CET		
Chair	Anke Hassel	Hertie School
Commentator	Kathleen Thelen	MIT
	Felix Sieker	Hertie School
	Anne Visser	UC Davis

March 17, 2021		
Session 3 - Platform firms and new business models: Challenging issues		
8:00am-9:30am PST, 5:00pm-6:30pm CET		
Chair	Anke Hassel	Hertie School
Commentator	John Zysman	UC Berkeley
Presenters	Donato Cutolo & Martin Kenney	University of Bologna & UC Davis
	Philip Meier*	HIIG
	Annabelle Gawer	University of Surrey

March 17, 2021		
Session 4 - Platforms and supply chains		
9:30am-11:00am PST, 6:30pm-8:00pm CET		
Chair	Martin Kenney	UC Davis
Commentator	Guido Baltes	Innovation Growth Lab
Presenters	Florian Butollo	Weizenbaum
	Thomas Gegenhuber Elke Schüssler	Johannes Kepler University, Linz
	Mikko Hanninen	Nottingham University Business School

March 24, 2021		
Session 5 - Competition and regulatory policy		
8:00am-11:00am PST, 5:00pm-8:00pm CET		
Chair	John Zysman	UC Berkeley

Commentator	Thomas Losse Mueller	EY
Presenters	Petri Rouvinen	Avance
	John Cioffi & Helena Malikova	UC Riverside & DG Competition European Commission
	Thorsten Käseberg	BMW i

***to be confirmed**