

Governance by Numbers and its Discontents

29 June-1 July 2023. UCD, Quinn School of Business, Belfield, Dublin, Room Q013

Workshop Programme

Thursday, 29 June

13:30 Introduction to the workshop:

Registration of the participants by **Bianca Föhrer (UCD)**

Lorenzo Cini & Roland Erne (UCD): Presentation of the research objectives of the workshop
“Governance by numbers and its discontents. From the micro- to the macro-level, and back”

14:00-15:45 Introductory session: *Putting governance by numbers into perspective(s)*

Sarra Kasseem (Universität Tübingen): “Work and alienation in the platform economy. A critical perspective”

Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven): “Platforms’ labour governance strategies and spaces for workers’ control within distinctive political institutional realms”

Alex Wood (University of Bristol): “Platform labour and algorithmic contestation: a new research agenda for labour studies”

Kurt Vandaele (ETUI): “Are platform workers willing to unionise? Survey evidence from 14 European countries”

Maurizio Atzeni (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago & CEIL/CONICET): “Understanding worker mobilizations beyond traditional trade unions in the global precarious economy”

General discussion (Discussant: **Roland Erne, UCD**)

Coffee break

Panel sessions:

16:00-18:00 Panel 1: *Analysing governance by numbers: The micro (company) level*

Tim Christiaens (Tilburg University): “Digital Rating Systems and the Social Phenomenology of Alienation on Labour Platforms”

Phoebe Moore (University of Essex), **Robert Donoghue** (University of Bath) & **Aude Cefaliello** (ETUI): “Managerial randomness: how algorithmic management threatens worker freedom”

Arjumand Younus (UCD) & **Muhammad Atif Qureshi** (TUD): “Gender analysis of platform workers in global South: a case-study of Upwork in Pakistan”

Heiner Heiland (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen): “The social construction of algorithms. A reassessment of algorithmic management”

General discussion (Discussant: **Sarra Kasseem, Universität Tübingen**)

18:30 Reception at UCD Village

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8:00-10:00 Panel 2: *Analysing governance by numbers: The macro level*

Donncha Kavanagh (UCD): “Governance as game”

Laura Giovinazzi (Università degli Studi di Milano): “Exploring the politics of governance by numbers in Italian and English universities”

Marco Marrone (Università del Salento): “The dark side of algorithmic management. Platform affordances, skills, and the intensification of labour”

Ilia Xypolia (University of Aberdeen): “Depoliticizing through numbers: quantifying human rights in EU discourse”

General discussion (Discussant: **Valeria Pulignano**, KU Leuven)

Coffee break

10:15-12:15 Panel 3: *Reactions to the governance by numbers: The micro (company) level*

Tereza Østbø Kuldova (Oslo Metropolitan University): “Compliance platforms as hostile algorithmic architectures: on the threats to workers posed by insider threat management systems”

Emma McDaid (UCD): “Algorithmic management as a mobile field: temporal flexibility, (in)stability and power dynamics at Uber”

Phuong Hoan Le (Erasmus University, Rotterdam): “Beware of ‘bossware’: the role of communities for gig workers dealing with algorithmic management”

Prakriti Dasgupta, Ronan Carbery, Anthony McDonnell, Stefan Jooss (UCC): “Worker resistance in the platform economy. A systematic review and future research agenda”

General discussion (Discussant: **Alex Wood**, University of Bristol)

Lunch break

13:15-15:15 Panel 4: *Reactions to the governance by number: The meso (sectoral) level*

Darragh Golden & Lorenzo Cini (UCD): “A virtual reality. Comparing trade union strategies and algorithmic managements”

Mary Naughton (UCD): “Outrage by numbers: quantifying the deterioration of public services through Trolley Watch”

Nicola Quondamatteo (SNS): “Takeaway couriers from self-employment to employment. A gaze into the transition process”

Huw Thomas (UCD) & **Vicente Silva** (LSE): “The global governance of numbers: the platform economy discussion at the international labour organization (ILO)”

General discussion (Discussant: **Kurt Vandaele**, ETUI)

Coffee break

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15:30-17:30 Panel 5: *Reactions to the governance by numbers: The macro (societal) level*

Josephine West (King's College London): "Digital workerism against governance by numbers. Organizing sex workers in the UK"

Philipp Gies, Franziska Laudenbach & Marcus Franke (Universität Bremen): "Governance by numbers along the supply chain: contesting labour control in the fashion industry by means of transnational collective acts of solidarity"

David Walsh (UCD): "Resisting governance by numbers through collective action: neither vertical nor horizontal"

Jason McKillen (QUB): "The interplay of private sector power, security governance, and social movements in the age of algocracy: the case of Palantir"

General discussion (Discussant: **Maurizio Atzeni**, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago)

17:30 – 18:00 Concluding discussion: *Book proposal for Oxford University Press*

18:15 Bus departure from UCD Quinn School to Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin 8

19:00 Dinner at [La Dolce Vita](#), 760 S Circular Rd, D08 HV0A, Dublin 8

Post-dinner drinks, (TBC)

Saturday, 1 July

Flights home – free time in Dublin (post-hangover)



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