

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)*

Chair: **Lorenzo Cini**

Sarrah Kassem (Universität Tübingen): “Governance by Numbers across Amazon Platforms: Amazon.com & MTurk” (12 min)

Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven): “Platforms’ labour governance strategies and spaces for workers’ control within distinctive political institutional realms” (12 min)

Alex Wood (University of Bristol): “Platform labour and algorithmic contestation: a new research agenda for labour studies?” (12 min)

Kurt Vandaele (ETUI): “Are platform workers willing to unionize? Survey evidence from 14 European countries” (12 min)

Maurizio Atzeni (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago & CEIL/CONICET): “Understanding worker mobilizations beyond traditional trade unions in the global precarious economy” (12 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Roland Erne, UCD**) (12 min)

Coffee break

Panel sessions:

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

Chair: **Roland Erne**

Tim Christiaens (Tilburg University): “Digital Rating Systems and the Social Phenomenology of Alienation in Platform Labor” (15 min)

Robert Donoghue (University of Bath), **Phoebe Moore** (University of Essex) & **Aude Cefaliello** (ETUI):
“Algorithmic management: a threat to the freedom of choosing subjects” (15 min)

Arjumand Younus (UCD), **Muhammad Atif Qureshi** (TUD) & **Faiza Yousuf** (WomenInTechPK):
“Gender analysis of platform workers in global south: a case-study of Upwork in Pakistan” (15 min)

Heiner Heiland (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen): “The social construction of algorithms. A reassessment of algorithmic management in food delivery gig work” (15 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Sarrah Kassem, Universität Tübingen**) (15 min)

18:30-21:00 **Reception** at UCD Village (balcony in front of auditorium)

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Friday, 30 June

9:00-11:00 Panel 2: *Analysing governance by numbers: The macro level*

Chair: **Roland Erne**

Donncha Kavanagh (UCD): “Governance as game: From the labour process to the play process” (15 min)

Laura Giovinazzi (Università degli Studi di Milano): “Exploring the politics of governance by numbers in Italian and English universities” (15 min)

Marco Marrone (Università del Salento): “The dark side of algorithmic management. Platform affordances, skills, and the governance by number: evidences from Deliveroo, Helping and Airbnb in the city of Bologna” (15 min)

Ilia Xypolia (University of Aberdeen): “Depoliticizing through numbers: quantifying human rights in EU discourse” (15 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Valeria Pulignano**, KU Leuven) (15 min)

Coffee break

11:15-13:15 Panel 3: *Reactions to the governance by numbers: The micro (company) level*

Chair: **Lorenzo Cini**

Tereza Østbø Kuldova (Oslo Metropolitan University): “National security, insider threat programs, and the compliance-industrial complex. Fighting security threats or managing workers?” (15 min)

Emma McDaid (UCD): “Algorithmic management as a mobile field: temporal blindness and asymmetry at Uber” (15 min)

Phuong Hoan Le (Erasmus University Rotterdam): “Beware of ‘bossware’: the role of communities for gig workers dealing with algorithmic management” (15 min)

Prakriti Dasgupta, Ronan Carbery, Anthony McDonnell, Stefan Jooss (UCC): “Worker resistance in the platform economy. A systematic review and future research agenda” (15 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Alex Wood**, University of Bristol) (15 min)

Lunch break

14:15-16:15 Panel 4: *Reactions to the governance by number: The meso (sectoral) level*

Chair: **Roland Erne**

Darragh Golden & Lorenzo Cini (UCD): “Virtual reality: Comparing trade union strategies and algorithmic managements” (15 min)

Mary Naughton (UCD): “Outrage by numbers: quantifying the deterioration of public services through Trolley Watch” (15 min)

Nicola Quondamatteo (SNS): “Takeaway couriers from self-employment to employment. A gaze into the transition process” (15 min)

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Vicente Silva (LSE) & **Huw Thomas** (UCD): “Global labour governance by numbers and the future of work: The ILO and OECD compared” (15 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Kurt Vandaele**, ETUI) (15 min)

Coffee break

16:30-18:00 Panel 5: *Reactions to the governance by numbers: The macro (societal) level*

Chair: **Lorenzo Cini**

Josephine West (King’s College London): “Digital workerism against governance by numbers. Organizing sex workers in the UK” (15 min)

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 action” (15 min)

Jason McKillen (QUB): “The interplay of private sector power, security governance, and social movements in the age of algocracy: the case of Amazon” (15 min)

General discussion (Discussant: **Maurizio Atzeni**, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago & CEIL/CONICET) (15 min)

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

19:00 Bus departure from UCD Quinn School to Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin 8

19:30 Dinner at [La Dolce Vita](#), 760 S Circular Rd, D08 HVOA, Dublin 8

Post-dinner drinks, (TBC)

Saturday, 1 July

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



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