

Markets and power in the digital age

September 16-17, 2021

Conference of the research committee in economic sociology, Swiss Sociological Association (SSA)

University of Neuchâtel

Room D 71, 2nd floor, Avenue de 1er Mars 26 (Main building)
Online via Webex (link tba)

The rise and spread of digital technologies over the past few decades has led to reconfigurations of the global economy and brought about new forms of power and power relations in both local and transnational markets. This conference investigates the workings of power in digital markets, and the forms of resistance and struggles that the new platform economy provokes. It addresses issues of regulation; algorithmic governance and digital market devices and infrastructures; social stratification in/through digital markets; and the struggles around data and surveillance.

With **keynotes** by **José Van Dijck** (Utrecht University) and **Philipp Staab** (Humboldt University Berlin)

Conference organizers: Philip Balsiger, University of Neuchâtel, and Michael Nollert, University of Fribourg

Scientific committee: Paula Bialski, University of St Gallen; Luca Perrig, University of Geneva; Léna Pellandini-Simányi, Università della Svizzera italiana (Lugano)

To attend in person or online, please sign up by sending an email to christelle.chittani@unine.ch We will send you a webex link for participation

--- Conference Program---

Thursday, September 16

9h15 – Welcome and introduction
Philip Balsiger (University of Neuchâtel)
Michael Nollert (University of Fribourg)

9h30: Keynote I

José Van Dijck, Utrecht University (online)
Governing Public Values in a Platform Society: A European Perspective

1030h – coffee break

11h00-12h Session I: Algorithmic matchmaking and control

Marketplaces – Organized physical and digital trade

Patrick Aspers, Matias Dewey, Judith Nyfeler, Rena Schwarting (University of St. Gallen) (on site)

Inside platform's organizations: An ethnographic approach on the role of algorithmic systems on work management.

Arda Hasipek (Universidad Autonomy de Barcelona), Guillaume Dumont (Emylon Business School) (online)

Chair: Léna Pellandini-Simányi (Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano)

12h – lunch break

13h30-15h00 Session II: Digital Monies

Temporal Regimes as Building Blocks of Cryptocurrencies

Ilan Talmud (University of Haifa) (online)

The Shift to Bitcoin Exchanges

Ingrid Becker (University of St. Gallen) (online)

The 'Sand Dollar': Sovereignty and digital money in the Bahamas

Jing Chu (University of Durham) (online)

Chair: Philip Balsiger (University of Neuchâtel)

15h00 coffee break

15h30-17h00 Session III: Social relations and apps

How digital payments create social relations in the data economy

Sophie Mützel (University of Lucerne) (online)

Payment Methods in Motion. On the Social Meaning of Cash and Cashless Payment Instruments

Klaus Kraemer, Jakob Gasser (University of Graz) (on site)

From Agora to Telegram: The role of encrypted messaging apps in the expansion of drug markets

Matias Dewey (University of St. Gallen) (on site)

Chair: Paula Bialski (University of St. Gallen)

17h Business meeting of the Economic sociology research committee

Thursday night
Conference Dinner

Friday, September 17

9h-Keynote II

Philipp Staab, Humboldt Universität Berlin (online)
Counter-Hegemonial Neoliberalism? The Battle for Digital Market Design and the Future of Digital Capitalism

10h – coffee Break

10h30-12h Session IV: Collective action and regulatory struggles in the platform economy

Organizing Digital Workers' Collective Action: their Resources and Opportunities
Lorenzo Cini (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence) (online)

Converging Distinctiveness? A Comparative Study of Policy-Driven Platform Contestation in the U.S., Germany and France

Jonas Pentzien (Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin; The New School, New York) (on site)

Tech-giants and transnational governance: Did the global rise of technology companies have an impact on the formation of data realms?

Bernd Wurpts (University of Lucerne) (on site)

Chair: Luca Perrig (University of Geneva)

12h – lunch break

13h30-14h30 Session VI: Power and regulation of Fintech

Examining fintech: All that glitters is not gold

Bateman, Milford (Juraj Dobrila University, Croatia); Fernando Amorim Teixeira (Fluminense Federal University, Rio de Janeiro) (online)

Riskwashing Fintech: the regulatory sandbox approach in the light of social theory

Brown, Eric (International Business School, Budapest) ; Piroska, Dora (Central European University) (online)

Chair: Michael Nollert (University of Fribourg)

14h30 coffee break

15h00-16h30 Session VI: Moral justifications of (alternative) platforms

An emerging moralized market field? The rise of platform cooperativism
Vera Vidal (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya) (online)

Digital geographies of resistance and alternative economies: the cases of FairCoop and Komun as grassroots technological innovations for the commons.
Xavier Balaguer Rasillo (University of Zurich) (on site)

Deliver to Live! Building moral justification of the meritocracy in structuring the Brazilian App-based food delivery market
Fernanda Coutinho, Mauricio Reinert (State University Maringa, Brazil) (online)

Chair: Philip Balsiger (University of Neuchâtel)

16h30-17h – final discussion