

Cyborg workers 2.0

The past, present and future of automated labour - the social and environmental costs of big tech

ETUI conference, 13 – 14 February 2025, Brussels

Conference Web Page and Registration

Please register for the conference via the ETUI conference website:
https://www.etui.org/events/cyborg-workers-20

Conference Venue

Thon Hotel EU

Rue de la loi 75

1040 Brussels

Belgium

Meeting room: France

Thon Hotel EU | Modern hotel in Brussels | Thon Hotels

Location of conference hotel: 'European District' of Brussels.

Nearest airport: Brussels Airport (Luchthaven Brussel); airport train station at level -1
Nearest underground station: Maelbeek (Hotel Thon EU across the street)
Nearest train stations: Brussels-Schuman and Brussels-Luxembourg

The ETUI is co-funded by the European Union.

Conference Schedule - General Overview

Day 1, Thursday, February 13, 2025

8:00 to 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 to 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks
9:14 to 10:30 am	Panel 1
10:30 to 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 to 12:00 pm	Panel 2
12:00 to 13:00 pm	Lunch Break
13:00 to 14:15 pm	Panel 3
14:15 to 14:30 am	Coffee Break
14:30 to 15:45 pm	Panel 4
15:45 to 16:00 am	Coffee Break
16:00 to 17:00 pm	Keynote 1

Day 2, Friday, February 14, 2025

9:00 to 10:00 am	Keynote 2
10:00 to 10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:15 to 11:30 am	Panel 5
11:30 to 11:45 am	Coffee Break
11:45 to 13:00 pm	Panel 6
13:00 to 13:45 pm	Lunch Break
13:45 to 15:15 pm	Panel 7
15:15 to 15:30 pm	Wrap Up and Goodbye

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Conference Schedule - Detailed Panel Information

Day 1, Thursday, February 13, 2025

8:00 to 9:00 am **Registration**

9:00 to 9:15 am **Welcome Remarks**

Aída Ponce Del Castillo (European Trade Union Institute, Belgium) and Richard A. Bachmann (University of Michigan, USA)

9.15 to 10.30 am **Panel 1: Historical Perspectives on/in Contemporary Critique**

Panel chair: Richard A. Bachmann (University of Michigan, USA)

Panelists:

1. **Renny Hahamovitch** (University of Michigan, USA): 'Machinists on the Moon: The Anxieties and Hopes of the Space Age Worker'
2. **Eszter Bartha** (Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Denmark): 'Engineering Consent: Automation and the Scientific-Technological Revolution in State Socialist East Germany (GDR) and Hungary'
3. **Craig Gent** (Autonomy Institute & University of Warwick, UK): 'Stop Trying to Make 'Sharing the Benefit' Happen: Why Getting Real with Big Tech means Getting Real with Management' (virtual)

10:30 to 10:45 am **Coffee Break**

10:45 to 12:00 pm **Panel 2: AI, Ecology, and Environmentalism**

Panel chair: **Joel L. Bock** (Old Dominion University, USA)

Panelists:

1. **Filippo Pianca** (Catholic University of Milan, Italy): 'Green Technologies, Red Flags: The Ethical Implications of AI in Climate Change Mitigation'
2. **Jasmine Campbell** (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands): 'From AI Environmentalism to a Decolonial (AI?) Ecology'
3. **Siobhain Lash** (West Virginia University, USA): 'AI, Climate Migration, and Adult Third Culture Kids: Rethinking Urban Ecology'

12:00 to 13:00 pm **Lunch Break**

13:00 to 14:15 pm **Panel 3: Automation for Whom?**

Panel chair: **Rabih Jamil** (Université de Montréal - GIREPSl, Canada)

Panelists:

1. **Ceyhun Elgin** (Bogazici University, Turkey): 'The Shadow Economy's Digital Transformation: Implications for Labor, Inequality, and Environmental Sustainability'
2. **Olga Gheorghiev** (Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway) and **Wouter Zwysen** (European Trade Union Institute, Belgium): 'Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Robotisation and Migration Patterns'
3. **Babatunde J. Omotosho** (Federal University Oye Ekiti, Nigeria): 'The Future of Female Youth Employment in Nigeria's Informal Sector: Navigating Automation's Impact on Gendered Labor Roles'

14:15 to 14:30 am **Coffee Break**

14:30 to 15:45 pm **Panel 4: Reframing Critique Under Big Tech – Challenging Techno-Solutionism**

Panel chair: **Michele Santoro** (University of Catania, Italy)

Panelists:

1. **Ava Liu** (Harvard University, USA): 'Limitations of University Basic Income for Addressing Labor Automation' (virtual)
2. **Aitor Jiménez** (Basque Country University, Spain): 'Combatting Digital Capitalism: The Criminal Strategy Behind Big Tech's Social Harm and the Need for Transformative Justice'
3. **Zaid Bin Ahsan** (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India): 'Digital Labour in Web 3.0 Applications: The Case of Play-to-Earn Games

15:45 to 16:00 am **Coffee Break**

16:00 to 17:00 pm **Keynote 1**

Keynote Speaker: **Ursula Huws** (University of Hertfordshire, UK)

Moderator: **Rabih Jamil** (Université de Montréal - GIREPS, Canada)

Day 2, Friday, February 14, 2025

9:00 to 10:00 am **Keynote 2**

Keynote Speaker: **J.Z. (Jason) Resnikoff** (University of Groningen, Netherlands)

Moderator: **Richard A. Bachmann** (University of Michigan, USA)

10:00 - 10:15 am **Coffee Break**

10:15 to 11:30 am **Panel 5: Algorithms – Thinking Beyond the Black Box**

Panel chair: **Aída Ponce Del Castillo** (European Trade Union Institute, Belgium)

Panelists:

1. **Pierangelo Blandino** (University of Lapland, Finland): 'The Evolution of Working Conditions and Rights in Blockchain Networks and Smart Cities'
2. **Miriam Klöpper** (M.A., Germany): 'Navigating Bias and Techno-Stress: The Impact of Algorithm-Driven Systems on Women in the Workplace'
3. **Marialaura Birgilitto** (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain): '(The Limits of) Algorithmic Regulation in Human Resources Management'

11:30 to 11:45 am **Coffee Break**

11:45 to 13:00 pm **Panel 6: Disrupting the AI Revolution**

Panel chair: **Magdalena Małecka** (Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies; University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Panelists:

1. **Ivona Živković** (University of Belgrade, Serbia): 'The AI Revolution in Creative Work: A Case Study of Automation in the 3D Graphics Industry in Serbia'
2. **Dylan Wittkower** (Old Dominion University, USA): 'The Bullshit Singularity is Near'

3. **Michael Brier** (University of Michigan, USA): 'Labor Politics at the Doorstep: Crowdsourced and Automated Surveillance in the Gig Economy'

13:00 to 13:45 pm **Lunch Break**

13:45 to 15:15 pm **Panel 7: Scales of Automation**

Panel chair: **Michele Santoro** (University of Catania, Italy)

Panelists:

1. **Dona Mathew** (Digital Futures Lab, India): 'The Making of Data Centres in India: Social and Environmental Costs' (virtual)
2. **Sophia Leipert** (HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany): '"The Port, That is US": Automation Processes and Labor Dynamics in the Port of Hamburg'
3. **Daniel Greene** and **Zothan Mawii** (University of Maryland, USA): 'Gigs North and South: The Uneven and Combined Development of Platform Labor'
4. **Robert Ovetz** (San Jose State University, USA) and **Lindsay Weinberg** (Purdue University, USA): 'AI, Precarity, and the Future of Academic Labor Organizing' (virtual)

15:15 to 15:30 pm **Wrap Up and Goodbye**

Richard A. Bachmann (University of Michigan, USA) and

Magdalena Małecka (Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies; University of

Copenhagen, Denmark) and **Aída Ponce Del Castillo** (ETUI, Belgium)

Conference Organizing Committee

Aída Ponce Del Castillo (ETUI, Belgium)
Magdalena Małecka (Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies; University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Philipp Reick (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)
Rabih Jamil (University of Montreal, Canada)
Joel Bock (Old Dominion University, USA)
Michele Santoro (University of Catania, Italy)
Sarah Earnshaw (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)
Richard A. Bachmann (University of Michigan, USA)

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