

Solidarity practices in conditions of insecurity: platformization and digital work

Theory and methodology workshop and discussion

24.- 25.6.2026.

Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Lepušićeva 6, Zagreb

Digital platforms contribute to the precarity and insecurity of work, which is particularly emphasized in sectors that are strongly shaped by the digital environment. In this two-day workshop / small conference, a theoretical overview of the way platforms structure and change labor will be presented, with examples drawing on library workers, hackers, the gaming industry, delivery and transportation workers, journalists and media workers. In the second day of the workshop, presentations will specifically focus on precarious conditions in journalism, and the way digital environment and platformization contribute to such conditions. Preliminary results from interviews with institutional stakeholders who are engaged in platform work in the gig economy (mostly delivery and transportation) and atypical work in journalism and media will be presented by researchers in the DigSolidar project. During the workshop, a focused discussion on applying concepts of platforms and platformization in studying precarious digital work will be held, with special emphasis on different methodological approaches.

The workshop is organized as a part of the project [“Solidarity practices in conditions of insecurity: platformization and digital work” \(DigSolidar\)](#). It is intended for researchers at the DigSolidar project, professors, teachers, PhD students, master and bachelor students, union organizers and members, and everyone interested in a discussion about how platformization shapes our working conditions. The language of the workshop is English.

Agenda

Faculty of Political Science, Room 402 (4th floor)

Wednesday, 24.6.2026.	
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee and introductions
10:15 - 11:45	Jean-Christophe Plantin, The London School of Economics and Political Science <i>Platform work, between deskilling and labor intensification: Theory, Cases, and Methods</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch break
13:15 - 14:45	Vedrana Baričević & Karlo Kralj, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb <i>Discussing preliminary results from DigSolidar - institutional perspectives about platform labor</i>
Thursday, 25.6.2026.	
9:00 - 10:30	Boris Mance & Igor Vobič, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana <i>Between Stability and Strain: The Working Conditions of Journalists in Central and Eastern Europe</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 12:15	Igor Išpanović, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade <i>Of Hobbies and Assembly Lines: Experiences of Digital Newswork at the Intersection of Social and Professional Inequalities</i>
12: 15- 13:15	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00	Antonija Čuvalo & Dina Vozab, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb <i>Discussing preliminary results from DigSolidar - journalism, platforms and precarity</i>

Speakers' biographies and abstracts

Vedrana Baričević is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, and a researcher at the Centre for Research on Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration (CEDIM). She received her PhD from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, in the interdisciplinary program Ethnicity and Migration. Her research interests include identity, citizenship, migration and social citizenship. Her work focuses on the politics and dynamics of belonging, social inclusion, and transformations of citizenship in contemporary societies.

Antonija Čuvalo is Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Communication, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb and vice-chair of the Centre for media and communication research. She obtained her doctorate in sociology at the Department for Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. She participated in the working group « New Media Genres, Media Literacy, and Trust in the Media » of the COST ISO906 «Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies». Research interests include media practice, spacio-temporal and social structures of everyday life, media audiences, trust in media, mediatization, media generations, digital culture and everyday life.

Igor Išpanović is a PhD student in Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade and a Research Assistant at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. He holds a BA in Journalism (2020) and a MA in Communication Studies (2021), defending his thesis titled "Fascism as a signifier in political discourse in the online editions of the daily newspapers *Danas* and *Informer*". He is a member of ECREA's Central and East-European Network. Through his research, he deals with the precarization of journalistic work, the impact of insecure working conditions on journalistic professionalism, and forms of (self-)organized, collective actions both inside and outside the newsroom. In addition, Igor is active as a freelance investigative journalist, collaborating with several national and regional research centers in Serbia and the Balkans.

Karlo Kralj is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Zagreb. Karlo holds a PhD in political science and sociology from Scuola Normale Superiore, where he also worked as a postdoctoral fellow. His main research interests

relate to social movement strategies and tactics, interactions between social movements and political parties, and political organizing. Primary regional focus of his research is on Southeastern Europe.

Boris Mance completed his doctoral thesis in Communication Studies at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2021. Since 2009, he has been employed at the Center for Social Communication Research at the same university. His primary research focus since 2015 has been on quantitative text analysis and the development and presence of various paradigms in international scientific research on communication and media. Additionally, his research involves methodological techniques for capturing and analyzing big data. These include automatic acquisition of big data, such as bibliographic data, digitization and cleaning of texts, and implementation of modern quantitative analysis methods. In addition, his research includes numerous studies in the broader field of social communication, with a focus on processes and transformations in social communication, namely in the fields of journalism, politics, and the public. In 2008 he was awarded with Faculty Prešeren Award for his undergraduate thesis and in 2018 with ARRS "Excellent in Science" Award.

Jean-Christophe Plantin is Associate Professor and Deputy Head of Department (Research) at the Department of Media and Communications at LSE. His research investigates the increasingly infrastructural role that digital platforms play in society. He is currently writing a monograph on how large tech companies shape our global communication infrastructure (through projects such as data centers, satellites, or undersea cables). He is also co-editing the *SAGE Handbook for Data & Society* (with Amelia Acker, Tommaso Venturini, and Antonia Walford). He holds a PhD in Communication & Information Studies from the Université de Technologie de Compiègne, France, and MAs from the Université Paris 8, France, and from the European Graduate School, Switzerland. He has held Visiting Fellowships at Northwestern University, Fudan University, Sciences Po, and Microsoft Research New England. His work has been published in leading Media & Communications and Science & Technology Studies journals, including *Media, Culture & Society*, *New Media & Society*, *Big Data & Society*, *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *International Journal of Communication*, *European Journal of Communication*, and *Sciences, Technology & Human Values*. His research has been funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the European Regional Development Fund, LSE and the University of Michigan.

Igor Vobič, PhD (University of Ljubljana, 2012), is a Professor at the Chair of Journalism at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He conducts his research at the Social Communication Research Centre of the same institution, where he serves as Deputy Head. His research interests lie in exploring the material and discursive aspects of technological innovations in journalism, focusing on the evolving landscape of news production, the societal roles of journalism, and the shaping of journalistic identity and ideology. Currently, his research is centered on investigating the epistemic authority of journalism in response to the emergence of generative artificial intelligence in social communication. Vobič's research findings have been published in esteemed international journals within the realms of communication, media, and journalism research, including *Journalism*, *Journalism Studies*, *Journalism Practice*, *Digital Journalism*, *Convergence*, *Critical Sociology*, and *Javnost–The Public*. Furthermore, he actively contributes as a member of the editorial boards for the international journals *Digital Journalism* and *Medijska istraživanja/Media Research*.

Dina Vozab is Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Communication, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. She is also a member of the Centre for Media and Communication Research at the same Faculty. Her research interests relate to the role of media in democracy, either through the analysis of media systems, journalism, news media audiences or relationship between citizens and media. She has published in journals such as *International Journal of Communication*, *Journalism*, *Central European Journal of Communication*, *Contemporary Southeastern Europe*, etc. She is currently the chair of the ECREA Central and Eastern European Network.

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