



#THE NEW COMMON SENSE FORGING THE COOPERATIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY

NOVEMBER 12-18

BERLIN AND VIRTUAL



**Platform
Cooperativism
Consortium**



i|ö|w
INSTITUTE FOR ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMY RESEARCH

WZB



Berlin Social Science Center

FORGING THE COOPERATIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY NOVEMBER 12–18, 2021 AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY & VIRTUAL

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE PLATFORM COOPERATIVISM
CONSORTIUM (PCC)

#THENEWCOMMONSENSE

Acknowledgements

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Support for this Event:

The following organizations support the event as partners: Mondragon University MTA; MONDRAGON, Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment at The New School; Humboldt University of Berlin, Weizenbaum Institute, Platform Cooperatives Germany.

The event is produced in close collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance, CICOPA, CECOP, ICA Youth Network, and Cooperatives Europe.

The event is financially supported by the Governing Mayor of Berlin – Senate Chancellery Higher Education and Research.

#TheNewCommonSense – Forging the Cooperative Digital Economy

The current pandemic has plunged the planet into disarray. One significant shift has been the ever-greater emphasis on the internet in our daily lives. Through community ownership, platform cooperatives allow us to take more control of our relationship with the internet and the myriad of services it mediates.

When faced with overwhelming economic inequality, previously unthinkable changes can become common sense. It is now time to create a digital economy that responds to such pressing issues of our day. To make democracy commonplace, in the workplace and beyond. To scale equality. To contribute to the commons, not the destruction of our environment. It's time to think about how digital platforms can be guided by cooperative principles.

The Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC), the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IW), and the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) host the annual Platform Cooperativism Conference, for the first time in Europe, from November 12 to 18, 2021.

#TheNewCommonSense convenes more than 80 cooperative pioneers, workers, trade unionists, policymakers, researchers, designers, and activists from over 20 countries.

The goal of this event, which will take place both online and in person at Humboldt University of Berlin, is to assess how platform cooperatives have responded to the pandemic, analyze inhibiting and supportive policies, and discuss current experiments with data cooperatives, token systems, and crypto networks.

Collectively, we will discuss the possibility of cooperative governance in the digital world, data trusts, and feminist tech infrastructures. To start, we'll field the following questions: In a platform society, how can geographically dispersed workers self-govern digital platforms? Which sectors and communities will benefit the most from platform co-ops? What role may unions play in supporting this movement? And how could platform cooperatives contribute to the creation of green tech infrastructures?

Participatory democracy is an aspiration that has extended to almost every nation on this planet. It's now time to steer the digital economy into this direction, to make platform co-ops common sense—in Europe and beyond.

ENGAGE

Twitter Hashtag

Use #TheNewCommonSense on Twitter to share your favorite quotes and impressions.

Twitter Handles

Be sure to follow us [@pcc_global](#), [@platformcoops](#), [@ioew_de](#), [@WZB_news](#) for sneak peeks and for live coverage.



[Platform Co-op Linkshare & Discussion Forum](#)



Support Our Work
If you are interested in becoming a member of [PCC's Circle of Cooperators](#), email info@platform.coop for more information.



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Sign Up for the [Newsletter of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium](#)

FORMAT

The ongoing global pandemic continues to make the organization of large in-person gatherings a challenge. The safety and health of our communities must always come first. To account for this, we have decided to move this year's conference into a hybrid space. #TheNewCommonSense is split into a two-day, in-person event at the Humboldt University of Berlin (November 12-13), and a set of virtual events (November 15-18), facilitated through Zoom. To be able to respect social distancing measures (and therewith protect everyone's health), participation at the in-person event in Berlin is strictly invite only. Participation in the virtual events is open to the public.

To make the in-person events on November 12-13 as accessible as possible, we will livestream the conference's representative opening event on November 12 and record the large majority of sessions on November 13 for subsequent viewing. In addition, we will produce short interview films with participants over the two days of the in-person event. Lastly, we have designed the program in a way so that speakers overlap between the in-person and virtual events. Through this, we hope to stimulate rich and thoughtful discussions across both formats.

Please register for the virtual conference by visiting platform.coop/events/conference2021/. Registration will give access to the livestream of the conference's opening event on November 12 as well as the virtual conversations that are set to take place between November 15-18. After having registered, participants will receive more information on the logistics of the conference via mail. We ask for your understanding that the format of this year's conference differs from previous editions. Our hope is to return to a larger in-person gathering for the next PCC Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2022.

AGENDA

Due to Covid safety protocols, participation on site at the Humboldt University of Berlin is strictly invite only. We ask for your understanding. Please do not go to the venue without having received an explicit invitation.

The Humboldt University has gender neutral and ADA-accessible bathrooms available throughout its buildings. Please feel free to ask a security guard for directions.

If you require assistance in the unlikely event of an evacuation, please let us know in advance by emailing tagung@ioew.de.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

The representative opening event on Friday will be livestreamed. Please click [here](#) or use the QR code below to register for the virtual conference and gain access to the stream.



5:00 PM – 5:45 PM Registration Opens

Friday check-in will open at 5pm and will remain open until the end of the evening. Check-in tables will be located at:

Location:
Humboldt University Graduate School
Entrance hall
Luisenstr. 56, 10115 Berlin

On Friday, all events will take place in:
Audimax 2
Humboldt University
Philippstr. 13, 10115 Berlin

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM Orientation

Jonas Pentzien (IÖW) will welcome all participants present in Berlin to the Humboldt University and give a brief overview over COVID-protocols before the livestreamed opening event begins at 6pm.

6:00 PM – 6:25 PM Welcome to the Conference & Introduction

R. Trebor Scholz
(PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center)
Jonas Pentzien (IÖW)
Christine Gerber (WZB)
Aman Bardia (PCC)
Mary Watson (The New School)
Iñigo Albizuri Landazabal (Mondragon)

6:25 PM – 6:40 PM Own This! An Introduction to Community Ownership for the Internet by R. Trebor Scholz

When markets fail, and government safety nets break down, people turn to each other. All across the planet, they form platform co-ops during a pandemic so they can help their community and make a living wage delivering food.

R. Trebor Scholz contends that when we see tech platforms deny workers a living wage, benefits, a right to organize while also widening economic inequality, cooperative principles can assist in establishing a pluralistic commonwealth. To get there, platform co-ops must scale.

But unlike traditional tech platforms, they are not about maximizing profit for investors or going public; they scale differently. They scale more affordably than brick-and-mortar co-ops. They scale by creating networks of smaller cooperatives that are then able to compete. They scale more quickly because members of the co-op can be anywhere in the world, and they scale democracy because power can be decentralized through distributed ledgers.

Scholz will demonstrate how these cooperatives scale deep and wide. However, in order for this movement to succeed, instructors at law and business schools must educate their students about cooperative ownership of the Internet, incubators must include platform co-ops, and unions must create them. Ultimately, Scholz encourages ethical, social impact investors to consider them if they want to leave an unrivaled legacy of equality.

6:40 PM – 7:00 PM

Cooperative Ownership for the Digital Economy: Opportunities and Challenges in Europe by Francesca Bria

Francesca Bria's talk will discuss the political economy of today's digital capitalism, showing how data and artificial intelligence have emerged as important geopolitical battlefields of the global order, with the city—one of the main sites of data extractivism—becoming one of the key battlegrounds for alternative

paradigms such as data commons or platforms cooperatives to tackle problems of housing, urban planning, sustainable mobility, and climate change. Francesca will look at the main challenges Europe is facing when it comes to technological sovereignty in the post-pandemic phase (e.g. digital trade, antitrust, industrial policy) and bring in the perspective she has been developing in her work in the past years related to data sovereignty for the people (European data trust model) with citizens' large scale participation and technology at the service of the green transition. She will also emphasize the importance of growing a European tech ecosystem (mainly based on open protocols and data sharing rules) that can benefit people and the planet. She claims: "The world has had a taste of a digital future dominated by Big Tech's surveillance capitalism, and of how technology can abet the Big State, for instance with China's digital authoritarianism. Now it is Europe's turn to lead the way to Big Democracy, a new kind of humanism, combining innovation and dynamism with an uncompromised defense of autonomy, democracy, sustainability and self-determination."

7:00 PM – 7:20 PM

Conversation between Francesca Bria & R. Trebor Scholz

Facilitated by [Ela Kageł](#)
(*Platform Cooperatives Germany*)

7:20 PM – 8:00 PM

Platform Co-ops for a (Post-) Pandemic Digital Economy?

The pandemic has thrown the globe into disarray. One significant shift has been the ever-greater emphasis on the internet in our

daily lives. How have platform co-ops coped under these conditions? What kind of responses were they able to give? And what might they provide for a (post-) pandemic digital economy? In this session, you'll learn about two groups that have experienced substantial growth in the past year: the Drivers Cooperative, a ride hailing cooperative from New York City that wants to build the 100% worker-owned rideshare company of the future. And Circles, a people powered money system which aims at promoting the local economy within your community.

Erik Forman (*Drivers Cooperative*)

Blanka Vay (*Circles*)

+ Q&A with **Jonas Pentzien**

8:00 PM – 8:15 PM

Closing Words

R. Trebor Scholz

(*PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Jonas Pentzien (*IÖW*)

Christine Gerber (*WZB*)

Aman Bardia (*PCC*)

8:15 PM- 8:30 PM

TreuhandTechno –

A Performance Lecture

TreuhandTechno is an artistic project by the theater collective Panzerkreuzer Rotkäppchen (PKRK). It explores the connection between techno and the Treuhand in East Germany in the 1990s, a period in which two thirds of former GDR companies were liquidated by the Treuhand. Workers were abruptly laid off and machines shut down. What did the children and grandchildren of the strikers do? They met in the closed factories to dance to the rhythms of a new machine music—techno.

Dismissal, trauma, unemployment in one world; speechless music, delirium and booming bass in the other. Thirty years later, the experience of social transformation in East Germany is more relevant than ever, with both platform capitalism and the Covid-19 pandemic posing new challenges. Against this backdrop, platform co-ops aim to provide an alternative vision of society, one that builds on the experiences of cooperatives and worker self-management. In their performance, TreuhandTechno will draw linkages between yesterday and today—a perfect artistic endeavour to close the first day of the conference!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

Events on Saturday will be recorded for subsequent viewing. Please [click here](#) or use the QR code below to register for the virtual conference and receive a notification on when the videos will be made available.



8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration Opens

Saturday check-in will open at 8:30 AM and will remain open until the end of the day. Check in tables will be located at:

Location:

Humboldt University Graduate School

Entrance Hall

Luisenstr. 56, 10115 Berlin

Unless specified differently, all sessions will take place in the following location:

Audimax 2
Humboldt University
Philipstr. 13, 10115 Berlin

9:30 AM – 9:35 AM

Welcome from the Institute for Ecological Economy Research

Thomas Korbun (*Institute for Ecological Economy Research*)

9:35 AM – 9:45 AM

Overview of the Day

R. Trebor Scholz
(*PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)
Jonas Pentzien (*IÖW*)
Christine Gerber (*WZB*)
Aman Bardia (*PCC*)

9:45 AM – 9:55 AM

Labor Conditions in the Digital World

In this event, we will learn more about the working conditions on commercial, non-cooperative labour platforms. Why do people use these platforms and what are their expectations of the working model? What are the central problems with regard to the working conditions and where do cooperatives have to connect in order to create better working conditions?

Christine Gerber (*WZB*)
Martin Krzywdzinski (*WZB*)

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Scaling Democracy in the Digital Economy

In this conversation, we will learn more about the question of scale in a cooperative digital economy. How can this ecosystem scale in a different, more sustainable way? How do we solve problems of global coordination, competences, and capital through a cooperative model? Should platform co-ops strive to scale? If yes, should they scale up, out, wide, or deep? Which good practice models exist? How do cooperatives federate? What is needed to successfully grow the social franchise model? How can we create cooperative network effects? Is a cooperative monopoly desirable?

Vera Vidal (*Universitat Oberta de Catalunya*)
Morshed Mannan
(*European University Institute*)
+ Q&A with **Aman Bardia**

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Lightning Talks

We are proud to showcase a combination of some of the most inspiring projects that have recently launched, and others that have distinctly proven themselves over the past few years. We will hear about strategies for capitalization and franchisement of the co-op model, the encouragement and facilitation of democratic governance among distributed producers, collaboration with unions, technological innovations relying on block-chain, and revenue sharing in the community. In quick succession, presenters will offer you an overview of how they are collectively making cooperative interventions across a range of sectors. Learn from these pioneers:

Introduction by **Christine Gerber**

Thorsten Dittmar (*Polypoly.coop*)

Rachel Arnould (*CoopCircuit*)

Caroline Woolard (*Art.coop*)

Emma Adelaide Back (*Equal Care Co-op*)

Lukas Reichel (*The Mobility Factory*)

Magdalena Ziomek (*SMart eG*)

Richard Jenkins (*Resonate*)

Javier Creus (*Saluscoop*)

Jonathan Reyes (*Fairbnb*)

Stacco Trancoso (*DisCO.coop*)

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Counterantidisintermediation by Dmitry Kleiner

Dmytri Kleiner will talk about Counterantidisintermediation, or in other words, why your platform co-op will most likely fail, as well as possible ways it could work after all. This discussion will touch on the end-to-end principle, audience commodity, and why workers need to control the API.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

Short Break

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Concurrent Town Halls in Various Locations I

Parallel sessions open up spaces where you can learn about the projects of your fellow participants from around the world. They amplify the unique potential of all of us being together in Berlin. Think of the format of this session as a topically-focused town hall; it is not a traditional panel. Each speaker has 5 minutes to introduce their work. The second part of each session is dedicated to a discus-

sion that promptly engages the people who are not on the stage.

Town Hall A

Actionable Policy Proposals for Public Authorities in Europe and Beyond

Location:

Audimax 2

Humboldt University

Philippstr. 13, 10115 Berlin

The European Union and the governments of its various member states increasingly use policy to shape the digital economy. The Digital Services Act Package and the Data Governance Act are just the tip of the iceberg. But do such policies benefit platform cooperatives? What policies are needed to strengthen the cooperative digital economy? This town hall brings together co-op-entrepreneurs and researchers to collectively tease out the role that policy can play in making the digital economy more democratic.

Facilitated by **Jonas Pentzien** (*IÖW*)

R. Trebor Scholz

(*PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Ludovica Rogers (*Co-ops U.K.*)

Markus Sauerhammer (*SEND e.V., Germany*)

Nicole Alix (*La Coop des Communs*)

Town Hall B

Working Conditions in the Co-op Economy: Self- Governance and Lessons Learned from Social Movements

Location:

Emil Fischer-Hörsaal

Humboldt University

Hessische Straße 1-4, 10115 Berlin

Can the co-op economy mitigate social inequalities? How can, in particular, disadvantaged labor market segments benefit? How can coops be governed in a radically democratic fashion? What are lessons and experiences from practice? What can the cooperative world and the social movement world learn from each other in terms of mobilization, self-organization and governance from below?

Facilitated by **Christine Gerber** (WZB)

Niels van Doorn (University of Amsterdam)

Magdalena Ziomek (Smart Germany)

Matthew Cole (Fairwork Foundation)

Mattia Carraro (Khora)

Paul Ortega

(Basque Agency for Development Cooperation)

Town Hall C

Founding a Platform Co-op: Good Practices

Location:

Festsaal

HU Graduate School

Luisenstr. 56, 10115 Berlin

This town hall provides insights into five crucial domains of the platform co-op founding process: (1) Democratic governance; (2) Creation of individual business model canvases; (3) Financing; (4) Transnational collaboration and Federation, (5) Tech Infrastructure. We ask: What bylaws and governance protocols are needed? How can we raise funds for the co-op? And how to implement node structures from the ground up?

Facilitated by **Ela Kagel & Andreas Arnold**

(Platform Cooperatives Germany)

Sarah de Heusch (Smart Belgium)

Blanka Vay (Circles)

Felix Weth (FDO Solutions)

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Lunch Break

Location:

HU Graduate School

Luisenstr. 56, 10115 Berlin

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

Concurrent Town Halls in Various Locations II

Parallel sessions open up spaces where you can learn about the projects of your fellow participants from around the world. They amplify the unique potential of all of us being together in Berlin. Think of the format of this session as a topically-focused town hall; it is not a traditional panel. Each speaker has 5 minutes to introduce their work. The second part of each session is dedicated to a discussion that promptly engages the people who are not on the stage.

Town Hall D

Building Platform Co-ops with International Membership

Location:

Audimax

Humboldt University

Philippstr. 13, 10115 Berlin

Over the long term, co-ops cannot scale widely as long as they remain isolated units in national market economies. As part of this town hall, we investigate projects that show the glimpse of an internationalist undertaking: platform co-ops that span various countries,

legal systems, tax systems, currencies, and political systems. We ask: How can platforms create and foster linkages across borders? What are the incentives for expanding to other territories? And what can we learn from the initiatives spearheading this vision?

Facilitated by **Aman Bardia** (PCC)

Lukas Reichel (*The Mobility Factory*)

Francesca Martinelli (*DocServizi*)

Jonathan Reyes (*Fairbnb*)

Sarah De Heusch (*SMart Belgium*)

Town Hall E

Unions & Cooperatives (I)

Location:

Emil Fischer-Hörsaal

Humboldt University

Hessische Straße 1-4, 10115 Berlin

In what ways have unions historically encouraged the formation of worker cooperatives? What are the advantages of a union sponsoring or establishing a cooperative? How, on the other hand, would a cooperative benefit if it were unionized?

Facilitated by **R. Trebor Scholz**

(PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center)

David O'Connell (*Universität Kassel*)

Marina Monaco

(*European Trade Unions Confederation*)

Semih Yalcin (*Lieferando Union/NGG*)

Oriol Alfambra (*Mensakas*)

Yonatan Miller (*Berlin Tech Workers Coalition*)

Town Hall F

Data Governance in a Cooperative Way: The Potentials of Data Trusts & Data Cooperatives

Location:

Festsaal

HU Graduate School

Luisenstr. 56, 10115 Berlin

How can we ensure that our data is processed in a good way? How can we protect individual privacy while using digital platforms for cooperative and nonprofit purposes? What institutional structures are appropriate for the collective management of data? In this town hall, we seek to explore common guidelines for democratic data governance projects in local economies. Our focus is on both platform cooperativism and platform municipalism in the smart city, two approaches that aim at providing digital infrastructures for certain communities while collecting masses of sensitive behavioral data. Drawing on concrete examples of data trusts and data cooperatives, we will discuss options of using, managing and protecting data as a commons, trying to tease out how data can be adopted by worker cooperatives as well as local authorities.

Facilitated by **Dominik Piétron**

(*Humboldt University of Berlin*)

Christina Colclough (*WhyNotLab*)

Javier Creus (*Salus.Coop*)

Eva Schweitzer (*Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (BBSR)*)

Thorsten Dittmar (*PolyPoly*)

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Short Break

All events following the break will take place at the following location:

Audimax 2

Humboldt University

Philippstr. 13, 10115 Berlin

4:00 PM – 4:30PM

Technology from Below

That the global digital infrastructure is consolidated in a few hands is no secret. Our working lives are deeply embedded and shaped by these dynamics at a greater pace than ever before. What is the role of automation in such a digital economy and possible modes of resistance? How and under which conditions can technology be leveraged for emancipatory purposes? What role could cooperatives play in using technology differently? What does it mean for the future of our working lives, and the structural economic potential these currently-liminal spaces hold?

Aaron Benanav

(Humboldt University of Berlin)

Morshed Mannan

(European University Institute)

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Feminist Cooperative Tech

How are the future of work, care, and governance intertwined when it comes to (platform) infrastructures? What could feminist platforms look like? How does feminist technoscience help us see more than just tech when we talk about decentralization? How can (distributed) cooperative organizations move us not just toward more egalitarian, but restorative infrastructures—and what are some examples of such platforms that are currently being developed? Which legal and policy frameworks would enable feminist platform infrastructure?

Facilitated by

Carla Young & Greta Franke *(IÖW)*

Mayo Fuster Morell

(Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

Natalia-Rozalia Avlona

(Restorative Infrastructures)

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Coffee Break

5:30 PM – 5:40 PM

Towards a European Ecosystem for Platform Cooperativism? By Jonas Pentzien

What are the benefits and disadvantages of transnational cooperation? Under which conditions does it make sense for platform co-ops to operate across Europe? Which political and structural dynamics hinder cooperation among (platform) cooperatives? Could secondary cooperatives help to diffuse the platform co-op model? And what do the experiences of existing platform co-ops with international membership teach us for the creation of a cooperative digital economy for Europe?

5:45 PM – 6:15 PM

Forging the European Ecosystem

Building on the questions raised in the previous presentation, we discuss concrete strategies for forging a European ecosystem for platform co-ops with activists from Spain, Belgium, Germany, and Poland. We ask: Why is a European ecosystem needed in the first place? Which purpose would it fulfill? What kind of institutions are capable of creating meaningful relationships between platform co-ops? Which services could a pan-European ecosystem provide to platform co-ops on the ground? Which role can incubators play?

Facilitated by **Jonas Pentzien** (IÖW)

Ela Kagal (Platform Cooperatives Germany)

Luca Pastorelli (DIESIS)

Jan Zygmuntowski (CoopTechHub Poland)

Ana Agirre (TAZEBAEZ)

Jose Mari Luzarraga (Mondragon)

6:15 PM – 6:45 PM

Lessons Learned & Wrap-Up

The presentations and discussions across this short but intense lineup of panels was the background to an imperative question—where do we go from here? Acknowledging the real value and the scope of existing projects and visions—together with their limitations—is a much needed discursive step to build something that is not satisfied with the marginality that the power of Big Tech condemns it to. Here, we will put together incisive insights from these two days, and open up a strategic discussion about really dismantling the corporatization of the Internet towards forging a global cooperative digital ecosystem.

Erik Forman (Drivers Cooperative)

R. Trebor Scholz

(PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center)

Jonas Pentzien (IÖW)

Christine Gerber (WZB)

Aman Bardia (PCC)

6:45 PM – 9:00 PM

Reception

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Participation at the virtual conference is open to the public. To gain access to the meeting rooms, please register by [clicking here](#) or by using the QR Code below.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:10 PM

Co-Ops for the Indian Digital Economy

This panel explores the current status and potential of the cooperative digital landscape in India. Is there an “Indian” context distinct from the growth of platform cooperatives elsewhere? What can we learn from the growth of platform cooperatives outside of India? What is gained, and at what expense, in the platformization process and, who will benefit from these changes? What opportunities and constraints do the broad cooperative sectors present for platform cooperative development? How can platform cooperators bridge the immense digital divide?

Facilitated by [Aman Bardia](#)

[Arun M](#) (*Center for Development Studies*)
[Vibodh Parthasarathi](#) (*Jamia Millia Islamia*)
[Salonie Muralidhara](#) (*SEWA*)
[Anita Gurumuthy](#) (*IT4Change*)
[Sonia George](#) (*SEWA Kerala*)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

6:00 PM – 7:10 PM

Exit to Community

“Exit to Community” is a strategy for bringing shared ownership, including platform cooperativism, into the mainstream startup economy. Above all, it is a shared story. It also involves identifying mechanisms for financing, ownership, and governance that can accommodate diverse conditions. This session will introduce startups that have used E2C practices to achieve practical goals. Participants will also gain hands-on experience with a new tool for mapping stakeholder relationships. Finally, learn how you can get involved in sneaking community ownership into startup-land.

Facilitated by [Nathan Schneider](#)

[Linh Smooke](#) (*Hacker Noon*)
[Danny Spitzberg](#) (*Turning Basin Labs*)
[Mara Zepeda](#) (*Zebbras Unite*)
[Austin Robey](#) (*Ampled*)
[Priya Krishnamoorthy](#) (*200 Million Artisans*)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:10 PM

Platform Cooperativism in Brazil

This panel will present and discuss the current situation of Platform Cooperatives in Brazil, addressing the role of groups and organizations involved in their development.

Facilitated by **Rafael Zanatta**

Camila Luconi Viana (*Unisinos Brazil*)

Georgia Haddad Nicolau (*Procomum*)

Mario De Conto (*ESCOOP*)

Rafael Grohmann (*Fairwork Brazil*)

Samara Araujo

(*Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives*)

3:00 PM – 4:10 PM

Unions & Cooperatives (II)

What is the relationship between unions and cooperatives? To what extent and how can unions strengthen cooperatives and what are challenges along the way? What can we learn from past experiences and good-practice cases?

Facilitated by **Christine Gerber**

David O'Connell (*University of Kassel*)

Minsun Ji (*University of Colorado*)

Ra Criscitiello (*SEIU*)

6:00 PM – 7:10 PM

Distributed Autonomous Organizations and Cooperatives

How can we meaningfully apply cooperative principles to on-chain cooperatives? How do we prevent mission shift and identify fraudulent cooperatives in the crypto, DAO, and Web 3.0 spaces? How might cooperative principles be embedded in smart contracts and on-chain governance? Is a certification a helpful option? What are the pioneering companies and efforts in this area, and what lessons can we glean from them to balance out the power imbalances in the data economy?

Facilitated by **R. Trebor Scholz**

(*PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Primavera De Filippi

(*Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Sylvie Delacroix (*Birmingham Law School*)

Jad Esber (*Harvard Law School*)

Katya Abazajian

(*Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Javier Creus (*Salus.Coop*)

Stacco Troncoso (*DisCO.Coop*)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:10 PM

Data Cooperatives – Presenting Work in Progress from the PCC/BKC Research Sprint

The participants of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium/Berkman Klein Center (Harvard University) Research Sprint present preliminary findings on data cooperatives based on research conducted during the sprint.

Facilitated by **R. Trebor Scholz**

(*PCC/Harvard Berkman Klein Center*)

Ana Agirre (*TAZEBAEZ*)

Elettra Bietti (*Harvard BKC*)

Adriane Clomax

(*University of Southern California*)

Noah DiAntonio (*Harvard University*)

Ander Etxeberria (*TAZEBAEZ*)

Megan Kelleher (*RMIT*)

Morshed Mannan

(*European University Institute*)

Kelsie Nabben (*RMIT*)

Sadev Parikh (*Harvard Kennedy School*)

Novita Puspasari

(Universitas Jenderal Soedirman)

Sadhana Sanjay *(IT For Change)*

Janis Wong *(University of St Andrews)*

3:00 PM – 4:10 PM

Global Cooperative Commonwealth

The notion of a global cooperative commonwealth, a global order made up of interlinked societies built on cooperative principles, has reverberated across generations, from the writings of the Rochdale pioneers in 1844 to the rise in worker cooperatives throughout the pandemic. What role can platform cooperativism play in moving us closer towards this notion of a global cooperative commonwealth? Which of the existing platform co-op projects show the glimpse of an internationalist undertaking, one that spans various countries, legal systems, tax systems, currencies, and political systems? What are the specific challenges that the platform model creates for international cooperation among cooperatives? How can these challenges be overcome?

Facilitated by **Jonas Pentzien** *(IÖW)*

Jason Spicer *(University of Toronto)*

Carla Young *(IÖW)*

Jonathan Reyes *(FairBnB)*

Iñigo Albizuri Landazabal *(Mondragon)*

6:00 PM – 7:10 PM

Closing with McKenzie Wark

What if this is not even platform capitalism anymore, but something worse? What if, on top of the political economy of capitalism, something else had emerged, even more abstract, even more total in its forms of

exploitation? That would mean that, in addition to the strategies the labor movement and its allies have traditionally deployed against capital, we might need some new ones to address these recent elaborations of the form of exploitation. The key to these is not the ownership of the means of production (platform or otherwise) so much as control of the vector of information. This part of the ruling class divests itself of direct ownership in favor of information control. Moreover, it benefits from systematic, structural asymmetries of information, which it comes to own in the aggregate. One question this might pose is whether the tools of information control can be deployed otherwise. Whether we can go beyond analysis and build alternatives. Of whether labor can create its own vector of information in the shadow of these systematic platforms of extraction and domination.

McKenzie Wark *(The New School)*

Epilogue

Facilitated by **R. Trebor Scholz**, **Jonas Pentzien**, **Christine Gerber**, **Aman Bardia** and **various event participants**

AFFILIATED EVENTS

The MONDRAGON Cooperative Experience

Innovation & Opportunities in Berlin, Germany, and the European Union

Friday, November 12

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location will be determined a week before the date (due to COVID-19)

In the run-up to #TheNewCommonSense at Humboldt University of Berlin, the people of the Mondragon Team Academy (MTA) Berlin Lab, a radical laboratory of creation and learning in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership and team innovation, will organize a reception for the conference participants. At the event, we will reflect on what and how we can apply what we have learned over the years from MONDRAGON's cooperative experience to future generations in the post-pandemic era. Registration for the event is mandatory. To register, please [click here](#) or use this QR code:



Sustainable Last-Mile Logistics and Local Marketplaces

A Model for Decentralized Platform Co-ops

Sunday, November 14

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: The CoopSpace, Glogauer Str. 21, 10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg

Participants of #TheNewCommonSense are invited to join a fishbowl session to discuss the potential for multi-stakeholder platform coops to build marketplaces for local shops and producers. The session will be hosted by the Berlinzudir cooperative who will present their specific solution for efficient last mile-logistics with cargo bikes. The event will take place at The CoopSpace, a self-organized coworking and community space. Registration for the event is mandatory. To register, please contact svea@fdo-solutions.de.

The 2022 annual PCC conference will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in the Museum of Tomorrow, focusing on a global green new deal for the cooperative digital economy. For this event, PCC will partner with Sistema OCB and Instituto de Tecnologia e Sociedade do Rio (ITS), among others. To become a sponsor of this event, contact us now.

BIOGRAPHIES

Aaron Benanav

Aaron Benanav is a postdoctoral researcher at Humboldt University of Berlin and academic coordinator for the research unit 'Re-Allocation' in the Cluster of Excellence 'SCRIPTS: Contestations of the Liberal Script', a seven-year project funded by the German Research Foundation. Aaron also serves as an editorial board member for the journal *International Labor and Working Class History*. Aaron's research interests include nineteenth- and twentieth-century global economic history, economic development, labor market dynamics, unemployment, and inequality. His first book, *Automation and the Future of Work*, appeared with Verso Books in November 2020. Benanav is working on two further book projects. One concerns the idea of a 'post-scarcity' economy, the other examines the global history of unemployment since World War II. Before joining Humboldt, Benanav was a Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. He holds a PhD and an MA in History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a BA in History from University of Chicago.

[@abenanav](#)

Adriane Clomax

Adriane Clomax is a fourth year PhD candidate from the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on equity and inclusion in worker owned businesses.

Aman Bardia

Aman Bardia is a recent graduate in MSc. Economics from the New School for Social Research (NSSR). Before joining the PCC, he has been a member of the Organizing and

Strike Committee with the academic workers union (SENS) at The New School. He has worked on campaigns with the New York Taxi Workers Alliance. Bardia, a native of Ahmedabad, Gujarat (India) is also the co-founder and editor of *Revival*, a magazine on left politics homed at NSSR. His research is focused on the uneven and combined development of capitalism in South Asia.

Ana Agirre

Ana Agirre is one of the co-founders and worker-owners at 'Tazebaez S.Coop' where she leads the cooperative development line. Tazebaez is an innovation group that works intensively in the innovation consultancy, education and communication fields putting people in the center of every process. They aim at personal, team and community development and commit to the cooperative model and its role in the development of not only wealthier but also more equal, democratic and sustainable communities. Ana has been the face of Tazebaez, playing a very proactive role in the international cooperative scene.

In 2015, she was co-founder of the 'Young European Cooperators Network' where she served on the board until 2019. In 2017 she was elected as VP for Europe at the 'International Cooperative Alliance youth network' and as part of the 'Youth Executive Committee'. In the last year and a half, she has been part of the team behind the Platform Cooperative NOW! course led by Mondragon Unibertsitatea and The New School. She is also part of the 'World Economic Forum' backed Global Shaper network for youth under 33 where she is the outgoing curator of Bilbao Hub.

[@aagirre](#)

Andreas Arnold

Andreas Arnold is a Berlin-based social entrepreneur, business consultant, community builder and connector into the platform coops ecosystem. After graduating with a Diploma in Industrial Engineering and Management and in front of the transition from the sharing economy to the platform coops movement over the past 10 years, he has gained expertise in the fields of blockchain, DLT, DAO, DGOV, cryptocurrencies, marketplaces and business models for the cooperative, digital economy in general. As a co-founder of Platform Cooperatives Germany eG, Andreas supports founders creating cooperative, digital business models. Being a network manager in the Platform Coops innovation network, he also connects businesses by facilitating knowledge transfers and supporting their innovation design. Furthermore, Andreas leads the digitalization and marketplace development for the freelancer coop SMartDe eG. In addition, he coordinates the marketplace development for the blockchain UBI project Circles and consults the partnering Circles Coop eG. [@sharingandreas](https://twitter.com/sharingandreas)

Anita Gurumurthy

Anita Gurumurthy is a founding member and executive director of 'IT for Change', where she leads research on the platform economy, data and AI governance, democracy in the digital age, and feminist frameworks on digital justice. Anita actively engages in national and international advocacy on digital rights and contributes regularly to academic and media spaces. She serves as advisor and expert on various bodies including the United Nations Secretary-General's 10-Member Group in support of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, the Paris Peace Forum's working group on algorithmic governance, Save the Children's ICT4D Brain Trust, and Minderoo

Tech & Policy Lab's Board.

<https://itforchange.net>

Arun M

Arun M is a free software activist and a founding member of the Free Software Foundation of India (FSF, India). FSF India's advocacy with the state government successfully led to the adoption of a free software policy by the state, which later had an effect on the national ICT policy as well. He played a key role in the migration of schools in Kerala to free software. He was also closely involved in the migration of major public sector institutions like the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), Kerala State Spatial Data Infrastructure to free software. Arun holds a graduate degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Kerala University and M.Phil in Applied Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University. His academic work is in the field of innovation and technological change.

Austin Robey

Austin is the co-founder of Ampled, a Brooklyn based ethical web platform that allows musicians to be supported by their community with direct, recurring payments. Structured as a co-op, Ampled is 100% owned by its artists, workers, and community (not VC investors) with the ultimate goal of creating a permanent vehicle for artist prosperity—not an acquisition or exit. As an organization, Ampled has positioned itself in stark contrast to Silicon Valley ethos through a commitment to radical transparency, democratic governance, and broad-based user ownership. Founded in 2019 by a group of designers, software engineers, and musicians, Ampled helps artists gain sustainable and predictable income in today's streaming economy, and gives them agency and ownership of a platform they rely on. <https://www.ampled.com>

Blanka Vay

Blanka Vay has been working with ‘Circles’ for two years. One year ago, she co-founded the ‘Circles Coop’ as a new legal entity with which to realize the UBI project. Furthermore, she is founder of the green party in Hungary and served as the spokesperson and communication manager at ‘Greenpeace Hungary’. She did crisis management for an animal welfare NGO, organized house occupation with homeless people and is active in feminist and queer issues.
<https://joincircles.net>

Carla Young

Carla Young earned her PhD in sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a researcher at the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) in Berlin. She engages with organization theory, economic sociology, and STS to study how people create organizations and technologies that facilitate more equitable and sustainable social and economic relations. Her dissertation ‘Playing the Game or Changing the Game’ investigated the emergence of a meta-organization in the field of food cooperatives in the US.
<https://www.ioew.de/en/the-ioew/employee-details/dr-carla-young>

Caroline Woolard

Caroline Woolard makes sculptures, platforms, and events to imagine and enact relationships of cooperation and mutual aid. Woolard is the Director of Research and Programs at Open Collective, a tech platform that enables a network of 600+ nonprofits and aligned entities to support 7000+ groups to legally raise and spend \$30M+ each year. In 2020, Woolard launched ART.COOP with Nati Linares to grow the solidarity economy movement in the United States by centering systems-change work led by artists and culture-bearers. Woolard has co-founded a

number of initiatives, including TradeSchool.coop, StudyCollaboration.com, BFAMFAPhD, and MakingandBeing. Woolard’s art and systems-change work has been featured at MoMA, in a monograph, and on New York Close Up, a digital film series broadcast on PBS.

<https://opencollective.com/>

Danny Spitzberg

Danny Spitzberg is a user researcher for a cooperative economy. He facilitates worker-led research with Turning Basin Labs, a staffing and training co-op based in Oakland, California. Previously he did UX research for a variety of member-led, community-oriented digital products with groups ranging from Up & Go and Rideshare Drivers United to the Lean Startup Co. and the Harvard Berkman Center. Danny organizes with Exit to Community e2c.how, a new ownership strategy for startups we value, and with Start.coop, Danny created the Ownership Model Canvas, a tool for designing effective member-ownership.

[@daspitzberg](https://twitter.com/daspitzberg)

Camila Luconi

Camila Luconi has a purpose to support people and organizations in working towards a better world. She holds a Master in Management from Unisinos and Poitiers/ France, with a specialization in Finance, Sustainability and Cooperativism. Her additional experience lies in the field of diversity and organizational culture. Currently, Camila works on the topic of Culture for Digital Transformation at Sicredi. In addition, she is co-coordinator of the Specialization in Cooperativism at Unisinos, university professor, member of the Cooperatives of Platform and Legal Environment research group at Escoop.

Christina Colclough

Christina Colclough—regarded as a thought leader on the futures of work(ers) and the politics of digital technology—is an advocate for the workers’ voice. She has extensive global labour movement experience, where she led their future of work policies, advocacy and strategies for a number of years. Christina is a globally sought-after keynote speaker and workshop trainer with over 300 speeches and trainings the last 3 years. She also has co-developed WeClock, an open source app that aims to empower workers through the responsible gathering and use of data. Furthermore, Christina created the Why Not Lab as a dedication to improving workers’ digital rights. She is included in the all-time Hall of Fame of the world’s most brilliant women in AI Ethics. Christina is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the UK; a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI); and she is Advisory Board member of Carnegie Council’s new AI and Equality Initiative. She is, furthermore, a member of the OECD One AI Expert Group, and is affiliated to FAOS, the Employment Relations Research Center at Copenhagen University.
[@cicolclough](#)

Christine Gerber

Christine Gerber is a researcher at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) in the research group ‘Globalization, work, and production’. After studying political science, her research background now lies in the sociology of work. Against this background, she investigates the changes in the world of work; more specifically, the precarization of work and changes in work control. One of her main topics is about platform work, on which she is currently completing her doctorate. To this end, she has empirically studied crowdwork platforms in Germany and the US that organize microtasks

and macrotasks. In addition, she has also conducted interviews and surveys with crowdworkers themselves. Aside from the focus on platform work, she has also been involved in research projects investigating changes in traditional sectors, including industrial manufacturing and logistics, and currently the health sector.
<https://wzb.eu/en/persons/christine-gerber>

David O’Connell

David O’Connell is a trade unionist from the United Kingdom currently writing his doctoral thesis in Germany. With a background in workplace organising in both countries, he completed his masters degree in ‘Labour Policies and Globalisation’ in 2016. His current research is funded by the Hans Boeckler Foundation and focuses on the role of unions in buying out and converting existing firms to employee ownership. He is also a member of the National Center for Employee Ownership in the United States, an elected alumni representative of the Global Labour University, and an active member of both IG Metall and Ver.di in Germany. He is a contributor to Jacobin Magazine, writing about cooperatives, employee ownership and trade union strategy in Germany—the latest of which is being converted to a chapter in an upcoming publication titled ‘Mutualist Humanity at Work: Accelerating the Global Diffusion of the Mondragon Cooperative Experience’.

Dmytri Kleiner

Dmytri Kleiner is a software developer and the author of the *Telekommunist Manifesto* and the Peer-Production license, a commons-friendly license the author has described as CopyFarLeft. He has developed the idea of Venture Communism, a mode of worker-controlled production modeled on peer networks and the commons. Dmytri is a principal contributor to the *Telekommu-*

nisten network, which generates art works and social practice elaborating the political economy of networked computation.

[@dmytri](#)

Dominik Piétron

Dominik Piétron is a research associate at the Department of Social Sciences at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He works on the political economy of digital capitalism with a special focus on data and infrastructures. He is a member of the Alliance Digital City Berlin, which seeks to promote democratic debate around digitization conflicts at the municipal level.

Ela Kagel

Ela Kagel specializes in the intersection of culture, technology and economy. As both digital strategist and cultural planner, she develops innovative approaches to public infrastructure and self-organization. From this perspective, she has produced media art exhibitions, designed spaces for cultural exchange and helped establish digital platforms, networks and communities. During her time as program curator for the Transmediale Festival for Art and Digital Culture in Berlin, Ela developed the Free Culture Incubator, a series of workshops and events based on free and open culture. Central to Ela's practice is supporting bottom-up initiatives deeply rooted in particular communities of practice. In 2010, Ela co-founded SUPERMARKT, an independent hub for digital culture and collaborative economy in Berlin. Ela still serves as managing partner of SUPERMARKT and organizes the year-round program of events, workshops and community gatherings. In 2019, Ela co-founded Platform Cooperatives Germany together with other pioneers of the cooperative, digital economy. In 2021, Ela has kicked off MoneyLab Berlin, a series of events on the

topics of sustainable finance, inclusive tech, community-based currencies and progressive monetary systems. Her current work focus is building a network of platform coops in Germany and supporting cooperative start-ups in their initial stages of development.

Elettra Bietti

Elettra Bietti is an SJD Candidate at Harvard Law School. She is a visiting fellow at the Information Society Project (ISP) at Yale Law School, an affiliate at Harvard's Berkman-Klein Center and a fellow at Harvard's Weatherhead Center. Her research is on the law and political philosophy of digital platform regulation, a theme that she tackles from a normative and critical perspective. Prior to her doctorate, Elettra was a competition and intellectual property lawyer in London and Brussels, handling corporate transactions and patent disputes. Elettra regularly volunteers for Privacy International, a London charity.

[@Elibietti](#)

Emma Back

Emma Back founded Equal Care in 2018 as a platform co-op dedicated to redistributing the power balance in social care—an area of life and work suffering from deep inequities and systemic injustice. Equal Care is a multi-stakeholder co-operative pioneering a way of providing care and support that is relationship-centered, recognizes the unpaid labor in caregiving and targets local autonomy at scale. In 2019 a community share offer raised \$600K, with 2020 being Equal Care's pilot year for launch of the operational mode (what a year to choose!). They are soon to launch their next share offer to raise capital for growth.

Emma's background is in community development and mental health. She is a Finance Innovation Lab Fellow. Her experience

working in the social care sector at the interface of its tendering and commissioning practices led to the creation of Equal Care as a vehicle to move money and decision-making to the people who do the giving and the receiving.

[@equalcarecoop](#)

Erik Forman

Erik Forman is co-founder of The Drivers Cooperative, the first driver-owned rideshare platform cooperative in the United States, as well as People's Choice Communications, the world's first worker-owned ISP, launched by striking cable technicians. Before turning toward cooperative development as a strategy for system change, Erik was active in the labor movement for over 15 years, leading groundbreaking unionization campaigns in the fast food industry and conducting organizing trainings and workshops across the world.

Erik is pursuing a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He currently teaches at the Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies in New York City, and is a visiting fellow at the Mobility Lab at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and a research fellow at the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@erikforman](#)

Eva Schweitzer

Eva Schweitzer is deputy head of the Digital City, Risk Prevention and Transport Unit at the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. She has been conducting research on issues of integrated urban development since 2009. Initially, she was active for several years in the field of Baukultur and the research of transnational programs. For the past six years, her work has focused on the "smart

city," addressing issues of strategic data handling, urban mobility systems, and questions of digital inclusion. She was also involved in the conception and drafting of the 2020 European 'New Leipzig Charter. The transformative power of cities for the common good'.

Felix Weth

Felix is the CEO of FDO Solutions GmbH, a Berlin-based software company that provides digital platform and marketplace solutions to cooperatives and social businesses. He is also the founder and former CEO of Fairmondo, a cooperative online-marketplace owned by its employees and users. With FDO Solutions, he is now starting a new platform coop project Berlinzudir.de, a marketplace for local shops with an AI-optimized solution for efficient delivery by cargo-bikes.

Felix holds degrees in political science, philosophy, economics, and public administration. In his academic and activist work, he focused on structural deficiencies that create corrupting incentives for different levels of stakeholders. Based on these observations, he developed a model for corruption-resilient companies, which he implemented with the creation of Fairmondo in 2012, one of the first platform coops worldwide.

Francesca Bria

Francesca Bria is the President of the Italian National Innovation Fund. She is Honorary Professor in the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at UCL in London, and a member of the European Commission New European Bauhaus High-level Roundtable and member of the European Commission High level Expert Group on Economic and Societal Impact of Research and Innovation (ESIR). She is leading the DECODE project on data sovereignty in Europe, Senior Adviser to the United Nation (UN-Habitat) on digital

cities and digital rights and former Chief Digital Technology and Innovation Officer for the City of Barcelona.

Francesca has a PhD in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Imperial College, London and MSc on Digital Economy from the University of London, Birkbeck. As Senior Program Lead at Nesta, she has led the D-CENT project, the biggest European Project on digital democracy platforms and crypto currencies. She also led the DSI4EU project, advising the EU on digital innovation policies and purpose-driven innovation. She has been teaching in several universities in the UK and Italy and she has advised governments, public and private organizations on technology and innovation policy, and its socio-economic and environmental impact. Francesca has been listed in the Top 50 Women in Tech by the Forbes Magazine, and in the World's top 20 most influential people in digital government by Apolitical. She has also been featured in the Italian Magazine Repubblica 'D', amongst the 100 Women Changing the World. In 2020 she has been nominated 'Culture Person of the year' by *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Francesca Bria has been awarded the honor of Commander of Merit of the Italian Republic. [@francesca_bria](#)

Francesca Martinelli

Francesca Martinelli got in 2017 a PhD in 'Human Capital Formation and Labour Relations' at the University of Bergamo in co-tutorship with Paris VIII Vincennes-St.-Denis. She also holds a master's degree in Philosophy and Ethics. Today, she is the director of the 'Centro Studi Doc Foundation,' where she is in charge of research and development and advocacy. In addition, she is also in charge of research, institutional communication and international relations

at the Italian cooperative 'Doc Servizi', also serving on the board of 'Doc Creativity'. Since the beginning of 2019, she is part of the direction of CulTurMedia, the association of Legacoop dedicated to cooperatives operating in the cultural, touristic and media fields. Since the end of 2020, she sits on the advisory board of the 'PICO Foundation', which promotes the goal to support innovation and digitalization in Italian cooperatives. In 2018, she was awarded the prize 'Astrolabio del sociale—Pierre Carniti', granted by the Centro Studi CISL, for an essay on innovative forms of cooperation and workers' representation in a European perspective. She presented her research in conferences and seminars all over the world.

[@centrostudidoc](#)

Georgia Nicolau

Georgia Nicolau is a Brazilian creative professional, researcher, trained facilitator and consultant in the areas of social organizations, collective action, innovation and culture and arts. She is interested in everything that has to do with a transition to a fairer, egalitarian and cooperative world. Since 2020, she is a fellow at the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity program at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). In 2016, she co-founded the Procomum Institute, a commons-oriented NGO where she is currently director of programs and partnerships and institutional development. Between 2013 and 2016, Georgia was deputy secretary of Creative Economy and Cultural Policy and director of management, entrepreneurship and innovation at the Ministry of Culture of Brazil. She is a founding member of the Global Innovation Gathering Network, which brings together innovators and entrepreneurs from around the world, with a focus on the global south, where she also serves on the supervisory

board. She is a co-author of several books and publications about the commons, innovation, digital culture and citizenship and is one of the personalities portrayed in the book *Generation Share: The Change-Makers Building the Sharing Economy*. She is also an alumnus at the Global Cultural Leadership program from the European Union. [@georgianicolau](#)

Greta Franke

Greta Franke is a student assistant at the Berlin-based Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), where she contributes to various projects on the platform economy. In her work, she applies a comparative lens to the framework conditions that allow democratically owned and governed platforms to thrive, comparing platform regulation in the US, Germany, and France. Greta has also been part of the team that has organized this year's PCC Conference. Besides her work at the IÖW, she is currently completing her M.A. in Social Sciences at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Her main academic interests concern global inequalities, platform economy, and gender equality. She has studied Sociology and Global Affairs at Northwestern University (USA, Illinois), Philipps-University (Germany, Marburg), and Charles-University (Czech Republic, Prague). [@franke_greta](#)

Iñigo Albizuri

Iñigo Albizuri is an industrial engineer of business management (6 years degree) and he has spent his whole working life in different cooperatives of MONDRAGON Corporation around the world (Spain, Italy, México, United States and China). He owns multiple patents as the result of his work. He is also the president of MUNDUKIDE, the NGO of MONDRAGON co-operatives, that works

setting up new co-operatives in developing countries like Mozambique, Colombia, Brazil or Ethiopia.

Iñigo has been honored with the prize 'Fair Saturday' for his work and capacity of innovation and social impact in the cultural field.

Jad Esber

Jad Esber is the co-founder of Koodos, a New York-based web3 company. He builds, writes and speaks on the topic of social spaces and creative tools and the intersections with decentralized technologies. His research interests cover digital identity, reputation systems, consumer marketplaces, curation and internet culture. Jad was previously at Google & YouTube, where he worked with and built for creators and artists in emerging markets. Jad has a Bachelor and Master in Engineering from the University of Cambridge and an MBA from Harvard, where he was also a Sainsbury Management Fellow and led the entrepreneurship club. [@jad_ae](#)

Jan Zygmuntowski

Jan Zygmuntowski is an economist interested in development studies, political economy of technology and the digital economy. He is co-president of the Polish Network of Economics and program director at CoopTech Hub, the first Polish center for platform co-ops. Besides, he is a lecturer and PhD candidate at Kozminski University in Management and AI in Digital Society, where he researches data governance, digital sovereignty and the public interest. In addition, Jan is co-founder and has acted as chairman of the board (2015-2020) at Instrat, a progressive public policy think-tank focusing on energy, digital and sustainability. He gained experience, among others, in the Polish Development Fund where he

coordinated innovation programs charted in the state industrial strategy. Graduate of the Warsaw School of Economics, fellow of G20 Global Solutions, British Council and Møller Institute. Author of 'Network Capitalism' ('Kapitalizm Sieci'), a book nominated for the 'Economicus 2020' prize.

<https://www.hub.coop/>

Janis Wong

Janis Wong is an interdisciplinary doctoral researcher in Computer Science at the Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy (CRISP), University of St Andrews. She is interested in the legal and technological applications in data protection, privacy, and data ethics. Her current research aims to create a socio-technical data commons framework that helps data subjects protect their personal data under existing data protection, privacy, and information regulations. Janis was a research fellow at the Open Data Institute, working on data ethics and governance for online learning. She enjoys communicating science to academic and non-academic audiences and has presented her work for the BBC, the British Computer Society, Creative Commons, and Scottish Parliament amongst others. Janis holds degrees in Law from the London School of Economics and Computer Science from St Andrews.

[@janiswong](https://twitter.com/janiswong)

Jason Spicer

Jason Spicer is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, where he researches and teaches on economic alternatives to the investor-owned firm, and the policies and politics they require to succeed at scale. These include cooperatives, which were the subject of his PhD thesis in Political Economy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), but also encompasses other social and

solidarity economy models across all three factors of production (land, labor, and capital, or in more plain language: commercial/residential space, businesses, and finance/banking). Through his Community Economies Lab, he also engages in applied business research and policy advisory work for cooperative and social economy initiatives, and for local and national governments, as well.

[@spicerjason](https://twitter.com/spicerjason)

Javier Creus

Javier Creus is the founder of Ideas for Change and the creator of @pentagrowth. Javier is considered to be one of the primary strategists and thought leaders in systems innovation, collaborative economy, open and P2P business models, citizen innovation and the networked society in Europe and Latin America.

He has been a freelance strategic planner, co-founder of Digital Mood incubator and @kubik multidisciplinary space, professor at ESADE (Escuela Superior de Administración y Dirección de Empresas). Co-author of the book 'We are not ants'. Advisor at Ouishare and secretary of the Open Knowledge Foundation in Spain. He is one of the promoters of Saluscoop, a non-for-profit citizen data cooperative for health research. It enables citizens to share their health relevant data in their own terms for common good (health related, non-for profit institutions, open published results) research projects of their choice.

[@saluscoop](https://twitter.com/saluscoop)

Jonas Pentzien

Jonas Pentzien is a researcher at the Berlin-based Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), where he investigates and compares conflicts surrounding the rise of the platform economy in different institutional

contexts. A political scientist by training, he is interested in the role political institutions play in processes of technology-driven change. What mechanisms do governments employ in order to adapt to and influence these changes? Do these mechanisms differ between countries? Since 2017, Jonas is working specifically on the topic of platform co-ops as part of a five-year long research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. As part of this project, he tries to identify the framework conditions that allow democratically owned and governed platforms to thrive. Jonas has studied Political Economy and Comparative Politics at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), Free University of Berlin (Germany) and Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain) and has taught classes on the Digital Economy at the Free University Berlin. Currently, he is a research affiliate of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@jonaspentzien](#)

Jonathan Reyes

Jonathan Reyes is a designer, an activist-entrepreneur and urban innovation consultant specialized on the integration of technology and collaborative culture for the improvement of urban policies. He has developed his professional career matching the fields of design, independent research, activism and entrepreneurship focused on urban strategies for the improvement of our cities from a collaborative approach. He develops projects and tools capable of involving citizenship, local authorities and public and private institutions for the common good.

In 2016, Jonathan started his journey on 'Fairbnb.coop' with other colleagues in Venice, Bologna and Amsterdam to create

an alternative to existing home-sharing platforms. Today Jonathan is vice president and CCO of the Italian cooperative.

[@Fairbnb_coop](#)

Jose Mari Luzarraga

Dr. Jose Mari Luzarraga is the co-founder of *LEINN & Mondragon Team Academy* (MTA World), an international community with 2.122 team-entrepreneurs in 115 team companies (startup co-ops); 13 MTA Social Innovation Labs operating in four different continents (Europe, Asia, America, and Africa). He is an ASHOKA Fellow social entrepreneur since December 2015.

Since 2004, as a professor at Mondragon University, he has lectured on global business, worker co-operatives, and social entrepreneurship. He is an international researcher at the MONDRAGON Innovation Knowledge center. In June 2008, he presented his PhD thesis: 'Mondragon's Multilocalization Strategy: Innovating Human-Centered Globalization.'

Jose has given talks at several international conferences in India, Norway, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, USA (World Bank Youth Summit), Saudi Arabia, China, and Brazil. He has collaborated in the past with different universities such as CEIBS (Shanghai), Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), and Harvard Business School (Cambridge). As a serial social entrepreneur, Luzarraga has co-founded co-ops & social business startups such as *Viaje Solidario* (2004), *Empatya Consulting* (2005), *EusKALAsia* (2006), *Mondragon Team Academy - MTA* (2008), *TZBZ S.Coop* (2012), *MTA China* (2014), *MTA Talisman* (2015), *Impact HUB Shanghai* (2016), *INNKUBO BlockChain Technologies* (2018), *ABORA SLL* (2018), *MTA Afrika S.Coop* (2019). Jose is a member of the Advisory Board of *TZBZ S.Coop*, *DOT S.Coop*, *WATS Ltd*, and *OX Riders Ltd*.

[@empathya_MTA](#)

Katya Abazajian

Katya Abazajian is a fellow at the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation at Georgetown University where she leads state and local work on open data and civic technology. She is a senior advisor of the TOPCities program and the State Chief Data Officers Network. Previously, Katya conducted independent research on collective data governance and local data-sharing at the Mozilla Foundation and January Advisors. As the Open Cities Director at the Sunlight Foundation, she led work in over 65 cities on transparency in smart cities initiatives, open contracting, and open data policy as a partner of the *What Works Cities* Initiative. [@katyaabaz](https://twitter.com/katyaabaz)

Kelsie Nabben

Kelsie Nabben is an ethnographic researcher in decentralized technology communities. She is interested in the human outcomes of digital infrastructure, blockchain community culture, and algorithmic governance. Kelsie is an active participant in a number of blockchain protocols, DAOs, and decentralized governance research groups, including Metagov, Smart Contract Research Forum, and Blockscience.

Kelsie is a recipient of a PhD scholarship at the RMIT University Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society, and a researcher in the Digital Ethnography Research Centre and Blockchain Innovation Hub.

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Luca Pastorelli

Luca Pastorelli is a European activist, cooperative and social economy expert and agitator in the European and international environment. As the head of 'Diesis,' he is in charge of the overall coordination and strategy of an ecosystem of SSE networks

from 20 countries. Over the years, he has coordinated and carried out cross-border studies, research and activities to serve the needs and priorities of social economy enterprises and cooperatives, in partnership with the main co-operative and social economy organisations all over Europe and published by CIRIEC, ILO among others. While deepening a sound experience in project writing and management he has thereby gained a broad insight into the fields of social innovation, social dialogue and industrial relations, training and entrepreneurship.

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Ludovica Rogers

Ludovica Rogers is program manager for new co-op ventures at 'Co-operatives UK', the network for Britain's thousands of co-operatives. As part of Co-operatives UK's Development Team, she runs the Unfound programme that supports and promotes platform co-operatives in the UK. She is a designer and has worked as an architect, process designer, researcher and campaigner. Her interests lie in the overlapping spaces between the commons, tech and finance.

[@ldvcrgrs](https://twitter.com/ldvcrgrs)

Lukas Reichel

Lukas Reichel is the current CEO of The Mobility Factory SCE, a European cooperative providing cooperatively owned IT tools to enable local and sustainable car-sharing businesses.

In addition to his degree in Electrical Engineering (ETH Zurich), Lukas has over ten years of experience in control development and management in railway propulsion systems (ABB Switzerland) and electrical grid flexibility aggregation (Smart Power Pool GmbH). Besides, Lukas is co-initiator of the Catalan cooperative for sustainable mobility (Som

Mobilitat SCCL) which itself was one of the founding members of 'The Mobility Factory'.

<https://www.themobilityfactory.eu>

Magdalena Ziomek

Magdalena Ziomek studied art history in Poland and project management in Germany. She defines herself as a creative worker and a social entrepreneur. Since 2006 Magdalena Ziomek has invested her academic knowledge and her personal experience to develop effective, tailor-made solutions that empower people who strive with administrative, financial, social and cultural barriers while seeking to make a living and to pursue their professional projects.

Magdalena Ziomek is founder, CEO and board member of the following organizations: non-profit association 'agitPolska' (with migrant communities, since 2006), non-profit association 'Smart network of creative' (with artists and creative professionals, since 2014), 'Smart Coop' (with freelance workers since 2015) and non-profit limited 'Smart Bildungswerk' (with freelancers from the training and educational field, since 2019).

[@magdalenziomek](https://www.instagram.com/magdalenziomek)

Mara Zepeda

Mara Zepeda is co-founder and managing director of Zebras Unite, an international and intersectional hybrid cooperative creating the capital, culture, and community for the next economy. This global community of founders and investors is creating a more ethical, inclusive, collaborative, and sustainable approach to building businesses. Prior, Mara was the founder of a venture-backed software company Switchboard (now Hearken). It was through her experience as an entrepreneur of a different stripe that led her to co-found Zebras Unite. Their manifesto,

'Zebras Fix What Unicorns Break', launched this timely, necessary, culture-shifting movement that has garnered broad recognition. It now boasts an online community of 10K+ strong, 100+ member-owners, and over 25 chapters around the world.

Mara is a systempreneur and serial social entrepreneur. She has also co-founded and was the founding board chair of Business for a Better Portland and XXcelerate. BBPDX is a next-generation business organization 350+ members strong that forges public-private collaborations to advance systemic change, shared prosperity, and social justice and equity in Portland. XXcelerate provides business support, education, peer mentorship, and funding to 200+ Oregon women entrepreneurs.

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Marina Monaco

Marina Monaco is policy adviser at the European Trade Union Confederation. She is responsible for the social protection, social inclusion and EU funds dossiers. Previous responsibilities concerned many other ETUC policy areas such as gender equality, workers' information, consultation and participation rights at EU level, multinational company restructuring, and corporate governance. She has an expertise in the relations between trade unions and social economy.

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Mario De Conto

Mario De Conto is PhD in Law, lawyer, and Professor of Cooperative Law, and director of the Co-operative Faculty of Technology (ESCOOP) in Brazil. Mario is interested in the worldwide legal environment for cooperatives, conducting studies in comparative law. Since 2017, he is conducting studies about innovation in cooperatives, in particular

about a suitable legal environment for platform cooperatives. In 2018, the research project 'Platform Cooperatives and the Legal Environment', coordinated by Mario, was selected following a call by the Brazilian National Research Council and the Brazilian Service of Learning about Cooperativism. The general purpose of the project is to analyze the drivers and restrictive factors to the development of a platform for cooperatives in the Brazilian legal system, proposing measures for its development. Today, Mario is working with a group of researchers from several countries in the execution of this project.

[@mariodeconto](#)

Markus Sauerhammer

Markus Sauerhammer has so far worked as a farmer, entrepreneur and start-up consultant. He studied agricultural marketing and management and completed an executive MBA in innovation and business creation. At the crowdfunding platform 'Startnext', he led the cooperation team. As chairman of the board of 'Social Entrepreneurship Netzwerk Deutschland' (SEND), he is committed to improving the framework conditions for innovative social enterprises and thereby shaping a future that is suited for our grandchildren.

[@teraspri](#)

Martin Krzywdzinski

Martin Krzywdzinski is professor of International Labor Relations at the Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, head of the research group 'Globalization, Work and Production' at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and co-director of the Weizenbaum-Institute for the Networked Society. He is research associate at the Oxford Internet Institute, co-initiator and member of the program committee of the DFG Priority Program 'The

Digitalisation of Working Worlds', member of the Research Advisory Board of the 'Work of the Future' program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and International Steering Committee member of the automobile research network GERPISA. His major research topics are technological change at work (in particular regarding the current processes of digitalization and automation) and the impact of globalization of companies and value chains on employment, work organization and skill formation. He has been researching the development of the platform economy for some time, with a focus on the working conditions of platform workers and the possibilities of regulating platform work.

Mary Watson

Mary Watson was appointed Executive Dean of the Schools of Public Engagement in July 2014. In this capacity, she leads the founding division of The New School with the aim of advancing its innovative approaches to action oriented, engaged learning in the world. Her current work at The New School includes co-leading a university-wide management, leadership, and entrepreneurship initiative, Management @ The New School, which bridges programs in strategic design and management, media management, arts entrepreneurship, and nonprofit and organizational change management. Watson is a key leader worldwide in university networks advancing change in higher education, including the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative and the Ashoka Changemaker campus initiative. She is co-founder of The New School's university-wide Social Innovation Initiative and Impact Entrepreneurship Initiative, which includes The New School Collaboratory, a Rockefeller Foundation-funded initiative on university community partnerships.

Watson contributed the chapter “Designing the University of the Future: A New Global Agenda for Higher Education” for the forthcoming book, *The New Global Agenda: Priorities, Practices, and Pathways for the International Community* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) edited by Diana Ayton-Shenker.

Watson’s creative practice and scholarship on the human rights of workers reflect her commitment to a more just and equitable world. She has more than two decades of experience in higher education as a faculty member, chair, associate dean, and interim dean, as well as broad experience in change leadership consulting for organizations and universities. She is a recipient of The New School’s Distinguished University Teaching Award. Watson holds a PhD in Organization Studies from Vanderbilt University.

Matthew Cole

Dr. Matthew Cole is a postdoctoral research fellow at Oxford University in the Oxford Internet Institute working on the Fairwork project. Fairwork is committed to highlighting best and worst practices in the emerging platform economy by evaluating platforms against global measures of fairness. Beyond the project, his academic interests are interdisciplinary, revolving around the political economy and sociology of work and technology. Recent research has involved themes such as the social shaping of the platform economy, trade union responses to digitalisation, politics of inequality and policy development aimed at creating a more just society. He has written for the Independent, Novara Media, Open Democracy, Social Europe, Tribune, the Verso Blog and Vice. [@mattcoleworks](https://mattcoleworks.com)

Mattia Carraro

Mattia Carraro has worked as a courier for the food delivery collective ‘Khora’ since March

2020. After starting to work for ‘Deliveroo’ in 2017, he discovered a passion for delivering on bicycles. In the following years he gathered experiences within small self-organised structures, such as working for big delivery companies with a particular focus on how all the organisational tasks could be covered by the courier themselves. At ‘Khora’ Mattia takes care of the logistical organisation of deliveries. Since July 2021 he is also part of the CoopCycle Administration Board in the role of software director.

<https://khora.berlin/de>

Mayo Fuster Morell

Mayo Fuster Morell is the lead researcher of Dimmons Research Group of the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), and the director of the *Barcelona UOC Chair in digital economy: for a sharing economy focused on people’s welfare and the Right to the City* gathering the UOC, the Barcelona City Council and Barcelona Activa. Dimmons Research Group promotes feminist digitalization of social economy through *Matchimpulsa.barcelona*, an enterprises promotion program of 130 companies in Barcelona. In addition, she is a faculty associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society – Harvard University. She is the UOC’s lead researcher of the European projects *PLUS: Platform Labor in Urban Spaces*, and the Gender Digital project on gender equality in the digital sphere.

[@liloroja](https://twitter.com/liloroja)

McKenzie Wark

McKenzie Wark is the author, among other things, of *A Hacker Manifesto* (Harvard 2004), *Gamer Theory* (Harvard 2007), *Molecular Red: Theory for the Anthropocene* (Verso 2015) and *Capital is Dead* (Verso 2020). She is professor of culture and media at Eugene Lang

College, the undergraduate liberal arts division of The New School, in New York City. [@mckenziemark](#)

Megan Kelleher

Megan Kelleher is a PhD candidate, a core member of the Digital Ethnography Research Centre (DERC) and one of RMIT's Vice Chancellor's Indigenous Pre-Doctoral Fellows in the School of Media and Communication. The title of her thesis is 'Blockchain Mapping and Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Observations at the interface between distributed consensus technology and Indigenous governance'. Megan's research, funded by the Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making and Society (ADM+S), is investigating whether the affordances of blockchain technology are culturally appropriate for Indigenous governance and decision making—and conversely whether Indigenous governance provides a model for blockchain governance. Grounded in her Barada / Baradha and Gabalbara / Kapalbara heritage, the research will be approached from an Indigenous standpoint, contributing to the field from an important Australian research perspective.

Minsun Ji

Minsun Ji (PhD) is the founder/principal of a consulting company, Labor Coop Connection, that provides popular education on labor and cooperative, coop incubation and research on the social economy. She was a fellow of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy (ICDE) at The New School (2019-2020) and was the director of the Center for New Directions in Politics and Public Policy Program in the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado Denver. In addition, she was the founder and the executive director of an immigrant worker center, El Centro Humanitario para los

Trabajadores (Humanitarian Center for Workers) in Denver, Colorado, and was a labor union organizer. Her research focuses on global labor issues such as labor and worker cooperative movements, union-coops, and organizing strategies for platform workers. <https://www.laborcoopconnections.com/>

Morshed Mannan

Morshed Mannan is a Max Weber postdoctoral fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute. His research focuses on blockchain governance, particularly within the ERC project 'BlockchainGov', and more broadly on cooperative governance. He recently submitted his PhD dissertation at Leiden Law School entitled *The Emergence of Democratic Firms in the Platform Economy: Drivers, Obstacles and the Path Ahead*. He has published articles in academic journals such as Georgetown Law Technology Review, Technology and Society, Topoi, Erasmus Law Review on topics pertaining to blockchain governance and the formation of a nascent type of cooperative business: platform cooperatives. As a corporate law researcher, he has also published a book *Freedom of Establishment for Companies in Europe (EU/EEA)* with his supervisor, Iris Wuisman. Morshed is a Research Affiliate of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School in New York City and is a dual-qualified lawyer (England & Wales/Bangladesh). He has also acted as a consultant on matters of cooperative law and governance for the International Cooperative Alliance and NCBA Clusa International, and an expert for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. [@MannanMorshed](#)

Natalia-Rozalia Avlona

Natalia-Rozalia Avlona is a lawyer, researcher

and Marie Curie PhD Fellow (DCODE) in the Computer Science Department of the University of Copenhagen, working on the ways that value(s) is ascribed into data-driven design. Whose values and for whom? In her research, she is exploring alternative data-value frameworks through a care and commons ethics lens. She studied law at the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2006), obtained her master's degree in Human Rights Law (LLM) from King's College London (2007), and followed courses in the department of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London and in the department of Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art. Her expertise is on the intersection of open and emerging technologies with law and society, through a feminist framework. Furthermore, her wider interests have led her into working on the legal and ethical consequences of the platform economy. Natalia-Rozalia has an international experience working in several Policy Organizations and European Research Programs in UK, Belgium, Greece and Cyprus and has been member of the Management Committee of Cost Action CA16121-From Sharing to Caring: Examining Socio-Technical Aspects of the Collaborative Economy (2017-2021). In 2020, she was appointed as a research co-lead for DisCO organization which offers a cooperative alternative to the aims and outcomes of DAOs (Decentralized Autonomous Organizations). She is also the co-founder of the techno-feminist hacking network Restorative Infrastructures. Besides her research focus, she has a strong involvement and commitment to feminist ethics as an activist in the field of commons, and social and solidarity economy. She has run a series of workshops on Wikipedia for the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector, co-organized feminist

workshops on FOSS at hackerspace.gr (Django Girls Athens), Techno-feminist Festivals (/EtcAthens) and (un)conferences on the commons, and has given seminars on Gender & Open Technologies, Gender & Social and Solidarity Economy and co-organized workshops on Everyday Feminisms and Care for Degrowth Strategies. During the covid-19 pandemic, she has co-initiated the Emergency Making Aid, a local, bottom-up initiative of makers, architects, researchers that aimed at the making and donation of 3d printed protective equipment to the medical personnel of the hospitals.

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Nathan Schneider

Nathan Schneider is an assistant professor of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he leads the Media Enterprise Design Lab and the MA program in Media and Public Engagement. He is the author of *Everything for Everyone: The Radical Tradition that Is Shaping the Next Economy*, published by Nation Books, and two previous books, *God in Proof: The Story of a Search from the Ancients to the Internet* and *Thank You, Anarchy: Notes from the Occupy Apocalypse*, both published by University of California Press. Recent scholarship has been published in *New Media & Society*, *Feminist Media Studies*, the *Georgetown Law Technology Review*, and *Media, Culture & Society*, among other journals. He has also reported for publications including *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and others, along with regular columns for *America*, a national Catholic magazine. He has lectured at universities including Columbia, Fordham,

Harvard, MIT, NYU, the University of Bologna and Yale. In 2015, he co-organized ‘Platform Cooperativism’, a pioneering conference on democratic online platforms at The New School, and co-edited the subsequent book, *Ours to Hack and to Own: The Rise of Platform Cooperativism, a New Vision for the Future of Work and a Fairer Internet*.
[@ntnsndr](#)

Nicole Alix

Nicole Alix is chairwoman of ‘La Coop des Communs’, an organization whose main purpose is to strengthen the dynamics of the commons by drawing on the experience of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in the perspective of a renewed citizenship—something that is made all the more necessary by the ecological transition. ‘La Coop des Communs’ is a learning community, one that encompasses various working groups, projects and action-research programs (digital cooperative platforms, local service commons, agriculture and food, etc.). It brings together practitioners and researchers. One of its main projects is Plateformes en Communs, which has been initiated in 2017.

Nicole, now retired, has also been involved in the SSE for 40 years through her work with HEC Business School. As former director of development at ‘Crédit Coopératif’, a French cooperative bank, she has also been involved in the non-profit welfare sector (DGA of UNIOPSS, an umbrella organization; CEO of the group of Isatis retirement homes) and has participated in several European or international networks (Confrontations Europe, Rencontres du Mont Blanc, SSE Task Force in the United Nations). Besides, she is co-author of ‘Towards a Republic of commons?’ and a member of the French High Council for Associations.

[@CoopdesCommuns](#)

Niels van Doorn

Niels van Doorn is the principal investigator of the ERC-funded Platform Labor project (2018-2023), which investigates how digital platforms are transforming labor, social reproduction and urban governance in post-welfare cities. He is also an assistant professor in new media & digital culture at the University of Amsterdam, where he teaches on topics such as platform capitalism, digital labor, internet-mediated intimacies and sexualities, and new media theory. For the past decade, his research has been guided by two main questions: how do people sustain themselves and each other in precarious circumstances; and how does the notion of value come into being at the intersection of political and moral economies? Before starting his Platform Labor project, Niels was a research fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS).

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Noah DiAntonio

Noah DiAntonio is a recent graduate of Harvard College in Social Studies with a secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, Rights. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and was a John Harvard Scholar and Susan C. Eaton Organizing Scholar. Noah wrote his senior thesis on alienation and worker-owned cooperatives in the United States. His work combined theoretical analysis with original empirical research and examined the role of participatory workplace organization in shaping worker experience in cooperatives. Outside of his research interests, Noah is heavily involved in non-profit social service and is currently working as a Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at the Karsh Family Social Service Center in Koreatown, part of Los Angeles, California, USA. In the future, he plans to pursue a PhD in sociology or political theory.

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Novita Puspasari

Novita Puspasari is a lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman in Indonesia. She is the head of the co-operative and SMEs Innovation Hub at the campus. In addition, she was part of the executive committee of the Indonesian Consortium for Co-operative Innovation (ICCI) from 2018-2020, and served as head of the Supervisory Board of Kopkun Indonesia, a consumer cooperative in Indonesia.

Currently, she is working on developing an innovative ecosystem for Indonesian cooperatives by serving as a staff-member for the Indonesian Ministry of National Planning. In this work, Novita is developing a National Middle Term Plan 2020-2024 for the cooperative sector, conducting research with the Indonesian Ministry of Cooperative and Small Medium Enterprises, and mainstreaming innovation in local cooperative communities.

[@novitadearaujo](#)

Oriol Alfambra Serrano

After striking in 'Deliveroo' and building the 'RidersXDerechos' ('Riders4Rights') union network and then being fired for their activism together with his colleagues, Oriol Alfambra founded 'Mensakas Co-op'. Their continuous struggle led the Spanish Supreme Court to state that the company must hire them back, and compensate them for fundamental rights violation. Furthermore the state-wide union networking has led to pressuring the Spanish Government to approve a pioneering but improvable law regulating tech delivery transnationals, stating that all couriers must be hired as employees. 'Mensakas' is a Co-op for online

ordering and urban logistics belonging to the Coopcycle network. All workers and members have been hired as employees since it was founded (2018). Therefore taxes and social security contributions are paid, unlike the delivery transnationals. It offers the option to consume in a socially responsible way using the smartphone. The cooperative helps strengthen couriers' self-organization and empower their struggles against precarious jobs. It provides real experiences of collectivization and economic sovereignty such as the development of a workers-owned digital platform and its deployment.

[@oriocosmic](#)

Paul Ortega

Paul Ortega is the Director of eLankidetza, the Basque Agency for International Development Cooperation, in the Government of the Basque Country, since January 2013. Previously, he joined the startup Innobasque (the Basque Innovation Agency) as Project Manager of Internationalization in 2008, and prior to it, he served as the Secretary General of the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs — Pax Romana based in Geneva (2004-2008), and as Director of the UNESCO Centre in the Basque Country, UNESCO Etxea, (1993-2004). Born in Bilbao, he studied Law at the University of Deusto.

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Philipp Staab

Philipp Staab is Professor of Sociology of the Future of Work at Humboldt University Berlin and at the Einstein Center Digital Future. In his research, he combines topics of work, social structure analysis, sociology of technology and political economy. Currently, he is particularly concerned with political conflicts over digital capitalism, the connection between digitalization and sustainability,

and the role of critical infrastructures in the transformation of modern societies.
https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/de/lehrebereiche/zukunftarbeit/mitarbeiter_innen/pstaab

Primavera De Filippi

Primavera De Filippi is a permanent researcher at the National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris, a faculty associate at the Berkman-Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, and a visiting fellow at the European University Institute. Her research focuses on the legal challenges and opportunities of blockchain technology and artificial intelligence, with specific focus on governance and trust. As a leading scholar on extitutional theory, she is developing a new theoretical framework on structured social dynamics to help build better interfaces between institutions and extitutions. Primavera is a founding member of the Global Future Council on Blockchain Technologies at the World Economic Forum, as well as the co-founder and director of the Internet Governance Forum's dynamic coalition on Blockchain Technology called Coala. Moreover, she is the co-author of the book *Blockchain and the Law*, published in 2018 by Harvard University Press, and she was recently awarded a €2M grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to investigate how blockchain technology can help improve institutional governance through greater confidence and trust, and its implications on global governance.
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Priya Krishnamoorthy

Priya Krishnamoorthy is an award winning broadcast journalist, arts manager and creative impact strategist passionate about bringing creativity/culture in conversation with sustainable development. As a Fulbright

Fellow and advocate in the creative industries, she brings 16+ years of experience and has worked with creative communities across India and beyond. Priya has managed projects for leading organizations like CNN-IBN, Bloomberg-UTV, Disney India, Crafts Council of India, MIT Solve, Fuller Craft Museum and others.

Currently, Priya is the CEO of 200 Million Artisans—a purpose-led ecosystem enabler committed to reimagining the potential of the handcrafted by bridging gaps in knowledge, resources and partnerships for artisan-producers and impact enterprises working in India's artisan economy.
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R. Trebor Scholz

R. Trebor Scholz is a community-engaged scholar, author, and Founding Director of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium at The New School in New York City. As a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, guest professor at Mondragon University, and former fellow at Open Society Foundations and the USC Berggruen Institute, Scholz keynotes conferences and presents to a wide range of audiences worldwide. Dr. Scholz' articles and ideas have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Financial Times*, *Le Monde*, and *The Washington Post*. To learn more, visit <http://platform.coop>
[@trebors](https://www.trebor.org) [@platformcoop](https://www.platformcoop.org)

Ra Criscitiello

Ra Criscitiello, Esq. is deputy director of research at SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West in Oakland, California, a labor union of nearly 100,000 healthcare workers. SEIU-UHW members are frontline caregivers, including respiratory care practitioners, dietary, environmental services, and nursing staff who aim to improve the healthcare

system by providing quality care for all patients, expanding access to excellent, affordable healthcare for all Californians, and improving living standards for all workers. Ra's work focuses on the intersection of organized labor and worker cooperatives, and she has built several innovative employment models that collectivize the employment status of unionized healthcare workers on scale. Ra's work developing unionized platform cooperatives demonstrates the possibility of a post-pandemic economic recovery that centers workers and allows flexibility without compromising traditional union values or worker control.

<https://www.seiu-uhw.org/>

Rachel Arnould

Rachel Arnould has over ten years of experience in building web platforms for social and ecological aims. She co-founded CoopCircuits, a platform cooperative dedicated to short supply chains. CoopCircuits main service provides an open source e-commerce platform that makes it easy to create innovative, independent, community enterprises. Farmers and producers setting up their own online stores can use the software, it is designed to help them collaborate and sell together, to create thriving, viable enterprises. In the cooperative's vision all actors of the distribution system (suppliers, distributors, consumers...) can control the tools they are using and can pool their resources to build and manage these tools together, ensuring their sustainability. They share them openly to allow as many people as possible to benefit from them and thus maximize their impact.

CoopCircuits is part of the Open Food Network, an open source and not-for-profit web community operating in 20 countries.
[@rachel_arn](#)

Rafael Grohmann

Rafael Grohmann is Assistant Professor in Communication at the Unisinos University, Brazil, director of the DigiLabour Research Lab and principal investigator for the Fairwork project in Brazil. In addition, he is director of the Platform Cooperativism Observatory in Brazil, funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, as well as member of Scholars Council, Center for Critical Internet Inquiry (C2i2), UCLA, and founding board member of Labor Tech Research Network. Rafael is editor of the book *Os Laboratórios do Trabalho Digital* (Laboratories of Digital Labor) and editorial board member of *Big Data & Society*. His research interests include platform cooperativism and worker-owned platforms, work & AI, datafication, workers' organization, platform labor, communication and work.

[@grohmann_rafael](#)

Rafael A.F. Zanatta

Rafael Zanatta is the executive director of Data Privacy Brasil Research Association, a civil society organization focused on data protection and fundamental rights based in São Paulo. Rafael holds a LLM in Law & Political Economy at the University of Turin and a Master of Science at the University of São Paulo Faculty of Law. He is a PhD candidate at the University of São Paulo, alumnus of the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam and a research fellow of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@rafa_zanatta](#)

Rich Jensen

Rich Jensen has been working as cultural strategist and consultant from north pacific America since the mid-1980's. He has co-founded and contributed to several world famous music labels and creative projects

from his region and presently serves as the Executive for Resonate.Coop, an EU-based, Fair Trade music-streaming cooperative governed democratically by its Listeners, Artists and Workers.
Objective: A co-operative planet led by artists.
[@richjensen](#)

Sadev Parikh

Sadev Parikh is a joint J.D. / M.P.A (Master in Public Administration) student at Georgetown Law and the Harvard Kennedy School. He explores legal and policy solutions to questions surrounding the digital economy. Outside of the classroom, Sadev works on advancing ideas like instituting a digital platform regulator in the United States and promoting competition in digital markets. These efforts led him to roles and fellowships with organizations including Public Knowledge, the Federal Trade Commission's Technology Enforcement Division, the International Trade Commission, the Department of Justice Antitrust Division, and Sequoia Capital. Sadev's work on technology policy is informed by prior experiences in the private sector at Salesforce, Quid Inc., and Mobilize. Today, Sadev is researching cooperative models for digital platforms as another means of creating a fairer digital economy that serves the public interest.
[@sadevparikh](#)

Sadhana Sanjay

Sadhana Sanjay is a researcher working with 'IT for Change', an India-based non-governmental organization that works at the intersection of digital technologies, social justice and human rights from a Global South perspective. Her work primarily investigates the implications of rapid digitalization for India's vast informal workforce and small entrepreneurs. Within this, her thematic areas of focus include the digital transformation

of traditional livelihoods, the rights of gig/platform workers and gender-transformative technology policy. She is also interested in the role of international law and multilateralism in enabling development justice in the digital era, with reference to digital trade rules, e-commerce and the governance of cross-border data flows. Data governance is at the heart of her research, and she is currently examining the value of alternative and cooperative data governance models for underserved communities.
<https://itforchange.net/>

Salonie Muralidhara Hiriyur

Salonie Muralidhara Hiriyur works as senior coordinator at SEWA Cooperative Federation and is a fellow at the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy (ICDE, The New School). Salonie has been working on developing ways to ensure the viability and sustainability of informal women workers and their cooperatives. She is also working on issues of meaningful digital inclusion, including through platform cooperatives. In the past, Salonie has worked in the research department of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. She graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with a degree in gender and development.
[@SalonieM](#)

Samara Araujo

Samara Araujo has been coordinating initiatives to foster innovation in Brazilian Cooperatives at OCB (Organization of Cooperatives in Brazil), aiming primarily for the development of an innovation culture and building a range of solutions to Brazilian cooperatives. Among the initiatives that she has coordinated is the inova.coop.br website, which offers courses, information, cases of innovation in coops, tools, and

e-books. The primary aim of the website is to promote innovation and platform cooperativism. Recently, she participated in the launch of a program that connects coops and start-ups, aiming to solve issues of cooperatives.

<https://www.somoscooperativismo.coop.br>

Sarah de Heusch

Sarah de Heusch is an institutional affairs officer and chair of Smart's ethical committee. 'Smart' is a cooperative of freelancers and entrepreneurs that provides them with tools and services to develop their activity autonomously while in solidarity. She works at the crossroads of research, networking and advocacy on topics such as freelancing, non-standard forms of employment, digital labor, access to social protection, cooperatives, democracy at work and the commons. She mainly builds partnerships and collaborates at international level with organizations and academics that share Smart's values and concerns.

She currently chairs the International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank working group on the Future of work as well as Cecop's working group on non-standard employment and cooperative solutions. Previously Sarah was involved in the internationalization of Smart and addressed issues of professional mobility of artists and cultural professionals. Before working for Smart she was a dancer for and co-founded Transe-en- Dance company and worked for UNICA (University Network of Capitals of Europe). She holds a Masters in Political Sociology from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

@sarahdeheusch

Sascha Kellert

Sascha Kellert is a serial-entrepreneur and Berlin-based founder of Rekursive, an

early-stage startup working to build the ownership economy by making it easier for anyone to share ownership of their companies and projects – whether a startup, cooperative, creator or LLC. Rekursive is founded on the core belief that ownership and power should be distributed based on contribution of value, not just capital invested. The first product is built on the Ethereum blockchain network, and the company aims to bridge the gap between Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 companies by serving both communities. Sascha studied Systems Theory at Bayes Business School in London and wrote his thesis on "Viable Business Model Design using Biomimicry", exploring how to design viable businesses using patterns and blueprints from nature. Over the last decade he has been developing practices and tools for the alternative ownership economy, while building his last two VC-funded SaaS/platform startups. Between various speaking engagements at European tech conferences, he has been a guest lecturer at ESCP and Bayes London and currently serves as an angel and advisor to other startups in Berlin. He has also recently spoken on topics of "fractal governance" and "recursive organisational design and ownership" on the Boundaryless Conversations podcast and the Metagovernance Seminar.

[@kellert](https://twitter.com/kellert)

Semih Yalcin

Semih Yalcin studied history and law at the University of Bonn, Germany. He has worked for various employers. After graduating from high school, he served two years as a soldier in the German army and worked as a helper on construction sites, at DHL as a loader, in the archives, at Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln (WDR) and at the Cologne wholesale market.

Five years ago, he started as a bicycle

courier at Foodora and was a team leader there. He now works for the international online delivery service provider Just Eat Takeaway, which includes Lieferando. For more than four years, he has represented the interests of the employees as a works council member, at times even on the supervisory board of Delivery Hero SE. Parallel to his work at Lieferando, he works on various projects, gives workshops and works as freelancer.

Sonia George

Dr. Sonia George is general secretary of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) in Kerala and national council member of SEWA, India. She is associated with SEWA for the last 20 years with responsibilities of organising informal women works for their rights and recognition. Sonia has been part of state, national and international policy and legislative discussions. The Self Employed Women's Association SEWA works on collectivising women through various forms to have a decent and sustainable livelihood. For the past 20 years, she has also researched on gender and labor issues. <http://sewakerala.org/>

Stacco Troncoso

Stacco Troncoso teaches and writes on the Commons, P2P politics and economics, open culture, post-growth futures, Platform and Open Cooperativism, decentralised governance, blockchain and more. He is the co-founder of DisCO.coop, project lead for Commons Transition and co-founder of the P2P translation collective Guerrilla Translation. His work in communicating commons culture extends to public speaking and relationship building with prefigurative communities, policymakers and potential commoners.

[@StaccoP2P](#)

Sylvie Delacroix

Sylvie Delacroix is Professor in Law and Ethics at University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on the intersection between law and ethics, with a particular interest in the design of computer systems meant for morally-loaded contexts. She is also considering the potential inherent in bottom-up Data Trusts as a way of reversing the current top-down, fire-brigade approach to data governance. She co-chairs the Data Trust Initiative, which is funded by the McGovern Foundation: Sylvie has served on the Public Policy Commission on the use of algorithms in the justice system (*Law Society of England and Wales*) and the Data Trusts Policy group (under the auspices of the UK AI Council). She is also a fellow of the Alan Turing Institute and a Mozilla fellow. Professor Delacroix's work has notably been funded by the Wellcome Trust, the NHS and the Leverhulme Trust, from whom she received the Leverhulme Prize. Her latest book *Habitual Ethics?* is forthcoming with Bloomsbury / Hart Publishing in 2022. [@SylvieDelacroix](#)

Thomas Korbun

Thomas Korbun has been Scientific Director of the Berlin-based Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) since 1999 and co-speaker of the Ecological Research Network (Ecornet), a network of eight leading institutes for sustainability research in Germany, since 2012. Prior to this, the biologist was Scientific Coordinator at the Brandenburg State Agency for Large Protected Areas and Researcher in the Department of Nature Conservation at the University of Marburg. Since 2020, Thomas Korbun is a co-speaker of the sustainability research alliance "Knowledge.Transformation.Berlin".

Thorsten Dittmar

Thorsten Dittmar is the director and founder of the polypoly Cooperative. From his apprenticeship as an electronics engineer in the mining industry, to his studies in computer science and philosophy, to his almost 40 years as an entrepreneur, for him it has always been about applied technology and the people who create it or want to use it. He says he is very fortunate to be old enough to have seen a significant part of today's computer technology come into being and to have been involved in some of it. This helps to keep a certain overview and to recognise patterns in the development of the still quite young IT industry. Moreover, in his eyes, we are at an inflection point where the data economy is being reordered. As has often been the case on the internet, the frontrunners of today are becoming the trailblazers of the next generation. It is up to all of us to make sure that we as Europeans, but also citizens in general, are not marginalized again.
[@polypolyCOOP](http://polypolyCOOP)

TreuhandTechno

TreuhandTechno is an artistic research project by the Berlin theatre collective Panzerkreuzer Rotkaeppchen (PKRK). It explores the connections between techno development and the liquidation of East German factories in the early 1990s. For detailed information on the project, see their homepage.
<https://treuhandtechno.de>

Vera Vidal

Vera Vidal is a PhD candidate at the Open University of Catalonia, where she works on platform cooperatives. As a member of the Dimmons research group, she contributed to the European research project 'Platform Labor in Urban Spaces'. She is a 2021 fellow at the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy, where she documents the transition of

Fairbnb.coop from a workers' to a multi-stakeholder cooperative. Prior to this, she earned a master in social sciences from EHESS, Paris, and a master in management from Audencia Business School.
[@VVidalBeneyto](https://www.instagram.com/VVidalBeneyto)

Vibodh Parthasarathi

Vibodh Parthasarathi maintains a multidisciplinary interest in media policy, digital transitions, and policy literacy. Vibodh is associate professor at the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, and visiting fellow at the Centre for Media, Data and Society, Central European University. He has been a visiting scholar at KU Leuven, University of Queensland, University of Helsinki, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, besides being an affiliate scholar at SASNET, Lund University. Moreover, he has been at the forefront of media policy research in India and a winner of numerous grants, including from the Ford Foundation, Canada's IDRC, Social Science Research Council, HIVOS, and University Grants Commission. His edited works include Platform Capitalism in India (Palgrave, 2020), the double-volume The Indian Media Economy (OUP, 2018), and the triptych Communication Processes (Sage 2007, 2009, 2010). Parthasarathi serves on the Board of the Centre for Internet and Society (Bangalore), in editorial/advisory roles in leading scientific journals and in book series at MIT Press and Oxford University Press, and as associate editor of Journal Digital Media and Policy.
<https://jmi.academia.edu/>
[VibodhParthasarathi](https://www.instagram.com/VibodhParthasarathi)

Yonathan Miller

Yonatan Miller is a tech worker and trade union organizer from New York who considers Berlin home. He recently graduated from a Master's Program in Labor Policies and

Globalization where he furthered his knowledge of the organizing challenges of global solidarity in the tech sector. He co-founded the Berlin Tech Workers Coalition, and he is an activist within the Berlin Vs Amazon alliance. He does not believe there are 'shortcuts' to organizing. When he is not busy fighting for justice, he can be found tweeting raccoon memes and sipping coffee on his twitter handle. Tech Won't Save Us, Organize!
[@shushugah](https://twitter.com/shushugah)

THANK YOU

We'd like to thank our wonderful team of student volunteers who helped make this conference possible. In addition, a very special thank you goes out to the PCC Circle of Cooperators (listed below). Without you, this work would not be possible!

CO-OPERATIVES UK

COLAB COOPERATIVE

**COOPERATIVES FOR A BETTER
WORLD**

COTABO

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FEBECOOP

**FONDAZIONE CENTRO
STUDI DOC**

**INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY
AND SOCIETY OF RIO DE
JANEIRO**

LA COOP DES COMMUNS

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

NEEDSMAP

**ORGANIZATION OF
BRAZILIAN COOPS (OCB)**

SMART.COOP

START.COOP

**UNITED HEALTHCARE
WORKERS (SEIU-UHW)**

ABOUT OUR WORK

Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC)

The New School's Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC) serves as a hub for co-ops making the digital transition. Rather than supporting cooperatives one at a time, the PCC identifies the systemic needs of hundreds of digital cooperatives, including platform co-ops, with tens of thousands of worker-owners worldwide. PCC promotes research and the development of shared digital infrastructure, which contributes to the growth of this sector.

platform.coop

PCC Affiliates include:

The Center for Civic Media MIT, Oxford Internet Institute, United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives (USFWC), Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, The U.S. Solidarity Economy Network, Civic Hall, Sustainable Economies Law Center, Dimmons.net, National Cooperative Business Association, IG Metall, Cooperative University College of Kenya, ICA group, FEBE Coop, P2P Foundation, Smart, Ver.di, The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet Society, and the Commons Transition Coalition.

IÖW

The IÖW is a leading independent scientific institute in the field of practice-oriented sustainability research. It devises strategies and approaches for viable, long-term economic activity—for an economy which enables a good life and preserves natural resources. How the digital transformation could be shaped in a sustainable fashion is

one of the institute's primary research areas. At the IÖW, more than 60 scientists and members of staff from different disciplines work together in teams—economists and engineers, sociologists and psychologists. Their common task is to recognise and identify the causes of social challenges and develop possible solutions. For our cooperation with political decision-makers, economic protagonists, farmers or NGOs we can draw on knowledge of the environment, long-standing contacts and a large network of national and international cooperation partners. This allows us to develop options for action which can really be implemented.

WZB

The WZB Berlin Social Science Center conducts basic research with a focus on problems of modern societies in a globalized world. The research is theory-based, problem-oriented, often long-term and mostly based on international comparisons.

- Our research areas are:
- Dynamics of social inequalities
- Markets and choice
- Society and economic dynamics
- International politics and law
- Dynamics of political systems
- Migration and diversity
- Political economy of development

As a non-university research institute, the WZB is a member of the Leibniz-Association. The WZB closely cooperates with Berlin universities. The WZB was founded in 1969 and is funded by the Federal government and the state of Berlin.

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