Organizations, Occupations, and Work

Feb 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Intersectionality and climate change. These two issues command attention from scholars of organizations, occupations, and work. Back in early Feb., we had an outstanding virtual panel on Organizational Lenses on Intersectionality, which drew an audience of nearly 120 people. (More on the insights from this panel to come in a future issue.) This coming Friday (March 3rd), we'll be hosting a virtual panel on OOW Perspectives on the Climate Crisis (register https://wustl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpd-2qpjsjGdBqoX91Thaz5m6hDCZjBSGW).

I want to take this opportunity to connect the two topics—and to briefly introduce the climate change panel more broadly. People often imagine climate change as a problem that "affects us all," even if it is hard to specify exactly how. It is clear, though, that climate change will cause—and is causing—social disruption and displacement for some people more than others. This includes people in flood-prone and draught-prone areas of the Global South, as well as people in the Global North who find themselves in high-risk zones with few protective resources. Social marginalization and vulnerability to environmental hazards usually go hand-in-hand. Moreover, projects for a "just transition" to low-carbon energy sources will need to grapple with deep and intersecting inequalities in job opportunities and exposure to local (not just global) pollutants.

Panelists in our March 3 event will take up some of these issues. Through the work of Jill Linsdey Harrison, J. Mijin Cha, and Dana R. Fisher, for instance, we will be able to consider how long histories of environmental racism are shaping social movements and policy projects to counteract climate change. And through the research of Natasha Iskander, we will get to consider how climate change, migration, and work are linked—among migrant workers in Qatar and beyond.

In addition, through Harland Prechel's work, we will get a chance to consider how the problem of climate change is linked to organizational misconduct and shareholder-value conceptions of the firm.

Of course, I don't know what these scholars will say next Friday. They have unique and valuable sets of research experiences and insights, and it is a pleasure to be able to bring them together. My sense is that the sociology of work, occupations, and organizations is inching closer to climate change—and I hope this panel can help to shed some light on promising paths.

P.S. On a different note, please take note of the call for papers below (deadline: March 10) for the OOW-section sponsored workshop on Precarity and Promise in Platform Economies. This is sure to be an exciting way to start your visit to Philadelphia in August!

Inside This Issue

Contact us at: oow.section.asa@gmail.com

OOW Panel: Perspectives on the Climate Crisis

The next event in the OOW section's virtual panel series is approaching. This one examines a pressing topic that only rarely gets sufficient attention from scholars of organizations, occupations, and work. Come check it out!

Climate change is profoundly re-shaping societies around the world. What does this mean for the study of organizations, occupations, and work? Are effective, equitable, and just transitions possible? As sociologists begin to confront climate change, what can OOW-oriented perspectives contribute?

Friday, March 3, 2023

1:00 – 2:15 EST

REGISTER HERE:

https://wustl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpd-2qpjsjGdBqoX91Thaz5m6hDCZjBSGW

Panelists:

[Dana R. Fisher](), University of Maryland

Author of *American Resistance: From the Women's March to the Blue Wave* (Columbia University Press), "Shifting coalitions within the youth climate movement in the US" (*Politics & Governance*), and many other contributions

[Natasha Iskander](), New York University

Author of *Does Skill Make Us Human? Migrant Workers in 21st-Century Qatar and Beyond* (Princeton University Press), "Climate change and work: Politics and power" (*Annual Review of Political Science*), and many other contributions.

[Jill Lindsey Harrison](), University of Colorado

Author of *From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies* (MIT Press), "Transition tensions: mapping conflicts in movements for a just and sustainable transition" (*Environmental Politics*), and many other contributions

[J. Mijin Cha](), UC-Santa Cruz

Author of "A Just Transition: Why Transitioning Workers into a New Clean Energy Economy Should Be at the Center of Climate Change Policies" (*Fordham Environmental Law Review*) and many other contributions

[Harland Prechel](), Texas A&M University

Author of "Neoliberal Organizational and Political-Legal Arrangements and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the U.S. Electrical Energy Sector" (*Sociological Quarterly*), *Normalized Financial Wrongdoing: How Re-regulating Markets Created Risks and Fostered Inequality* (Stanford University Press), and many other contributions

Moderated by:

[Tim Bartley](), Washington University in St. Louis

[Simone Domingue](), University of Oklahoma

OOW-sponsored workshop call: Precarity and Promise in Platform Economies

Announcing a 2023 ASA pre-conference workshop on platform economies sponsored by the American Sociological Association's section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work (OOW) with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation!

Precarity and Promise in Platform Economies: Infrastructures and Ecosystems of Entrepreneurship

August 17, 2023

University of Pennsylvania

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, March 10, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Digital platforms such as Uber, WeChat, TaskRabbit, WhatsApp, IndieGogo, Meta, and YouTube are changing the nature of work, transforming service and creative industries, and

reshaping how people think about market exchange, competition, and collaboration. The rise of platforms is linked to the growth of precarious work, rising inequality, and the shifting of risk from organizations to individuals. At the same time, it is clear that some of those who operate within "platform capitalism" see themselves as entrepreneurs rather than exploited workers. When do platforms serve as robust infrastructures for entrepreneurship? When do they breed further precarity and exacerbate inequality? How do these two dynamics intertwine in different types of platforms (virtual and place-based) and industries? How do long-standing intersectional inequalities based on class, race, gender, or sexuality bear on platform work? And how can global and comparative perspectives generate new insights into the relationships between platforms and their institutional ecologies? We welcome any submissions relevant to these broad themes and questions.

The workshop's attendees will meet in person in Philadelphia on Thursday, August 17, 2023, the first day of the 2023 ASA annual meeting. We invite submissions of two sorts. First, those who are conducting research on relevant topics are invited to submit a précis (1- or 2-page single-spaced pages, approximately 500-1,000 words) for a paper to be presented and discussed during the workshop. Second, those who are just starting to do research in this area are invited to submit brief descriptions of their emerging projects, some of which will be selected for short "speed presentations" during the workshop. To submit your paper précis or speed-presentation description, please go to https://sites.google.com/bu.edu/oowpreconference23.

Small grants will be available to help defray travel costs for presenters who do not have other travel funds available. To make the workshop as inclusive as possible, we strongly encourage submissions from graduate students, early-career faculty, and scholars of color, among others.

In general, we welcome submissions that discuss platform economies and the ways that these technological and institutional infrastructures are transforming how people start businesses, organize projects, and understand their labor and creativity. We are especially interested in interdisciplinary work that explores how platforms structure the possibilities for micro-entrepreneurship, flexible labor, worker and entrepreneurship training, and other internet-mediated economic activities that have expanded in recent years-posing individuals and communities with new opportunities for growth and ingenuity, yet also new risks of exploitation and abuse. This unique and interdisciplinary gathering of scholars will help participants place their work within the broader landscape of scholarship on platform economies, entrepreneurship, and labor inequality.

We will review the submissions and contact the authors by early April. Papers will be grouped into sessions based on common themes and research interests. If selected, you will be expected to share a full paper by July 17, 2023. We expect presenters to attend the workshop in person, though we may allow for other options depending on the current Covid-19 conditions. Please visit https://sites.google.com/bu.edu/oowpreconference23 to learn more about the workshop, submit your paper précis or speed-presentation description, or contact the organizers with any questions.

Organizing committee: Tim Bartley, Victor Tan Chen, Ashley Mears, Thao Nguyen, Benjamin Shestakofsky, Steven Vallas, Zoe Zhao.

Limited travel funding is available to help defray costs of attendance for workshop participants.

Announcements

- Summer Workshop: XV Medici Summer School, The Rise of the Platform Economy and its Implications

- Summer Workshop: Summer Workshop for a New Political Economy, at UC Berkeley

- Call for Entries: Elgar Encyclopedia of Organizational Sociology

New Publications

- New Publication: Precarious Employment and Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- New Publication: Inequality and the Status Window: Inequality, Conflict, and the Salience of Status Differences in Conflicts over Resources

- New Journal: Journal of Organizational Sociology

Latest from Work in Progress

- The Consequences of Being Measured by Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra

- How Did China's Supplemental Education Sector Grow to Be the World's Largest For-Profit Education Industry? by Le Lin

- What is Precarious Work, and What Happened to Precarious Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic? by Sigal Alon

- Long Covid Sufferers Decry Gaslighting by Larry Au, Cristian Capotescu, Gil Eyal and Gabrielle Finestone

- The Unintended Consequences of Favorable Ratings by Ben Lewis and Chad Carlos

- What is Workplace Bullying, and How to Respond to It? Different Responses by Unions and Employers in Brazil by Paulo Marzionna

- How do Professional Knowledge Workers Cope with An Uncertain Future in the Artificial Intelligence Age? By Masashi Goto

- Social Class Matters at College. What Happened When Campuses Shut Down? By Elena Van Stee

- Do Employees Mind the (Gender Wage) Gap? by Amanda Sharkey