

谁拥有这个世界? WHO
OWNS THE WORLD? दुनिया
का मालकि कौन है? ¿QUIÉN ES
EL DUEÑO DEL MUNDO?
পৃথিবীর মালকি কে? KTO
ВЛАДЕЕТ МИРОМ? 誰が世
界を所有していますか?
QUEM É DONO DO MUNDO?
વશિવનો માલકિ કોણ છે?
LE MONDE APPARTIENT À
QUI? VEM ÄGER VÄRLDEN?
ใครเป็นเจ้าของโลก? WEM
GEHÖRT DIE WELT?



Platform
Cooperativism
Consortium



INSTITUTE
FOR THE
COOPERATIVE
DIGITAL
ECONOMY

THE
NEW
SCHOOL

THE STATE OF PLATFORM COOPERATIVISM NOVEMBER 7–9, 2019 AT THE NEW SCHOOL

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF DIGITAL LABOR
CONFERENCES AT THE
NEW SCHOOL**

#COOPERATORSUNITE

Acknowledgements

Conference Convener:	Prof. Trebor Scholz
Producer:	Michael McHugh
Production Assistant:	Angela Difede
Videographer:	Haley Snyder
Live Streaming:	Joly MacFie
Photography:	Kevin Jones
Program Design:	Creative Workers Cooperative
Catering:	Co-op Cafe, Khao'na Kitchen
Student Staff:	Noelia Avila, Aman Manish Bardia, Claire Haughey, Darcy Keester, Collin McClain

Support for this Event:

The following organizations have taken a stand for the future of cooperatives in the digital economy by joining the PCC Circle of Cooperators as members:

Smart.coop, Fairbnb.coop, Coompanion, NeedsMap, Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (Australia), Datavest, Democracy at Work Institute, Co-operatives UK, Stocksy United, CoLab Cooperative, Cotabo, Ontario Co-operative Association, Fondazione Centro Studi Doc, Center for Cultural Innovation, Cooperatives for a Better World, Unionen, Institute for the Future, Febecoop, La Coop des Communs

In addition, we acknowledge event sponsors including the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing, Rutgers University; The New School's Milano School for Management and Policy; the Open Society Foundations; and the Ford Foundation.

Fire the Bosses, Democratize the Internet, and Own the Future

Celebrating ten years of digital labor conferences at The New School, *Who Owns the World? The State of Platform Cooperativism* is the most international gathering of its kind.

Following our 2018 conference in Hong Kong, this much-needed event summons scholars and founders of platform cooperatives -- businesses that use a website, mobile app, or protocol to sell goods or services while relying on democratic decision-making and shared ownership of the platform by workers and users.

Platform cooperativism is not a fleeting idea but an iterative process that unfolds with the support of community groups and anchor organizations such as universities, cooperative banks, and accelerators. Impulses for a democratic digital transformation come from numerous domains, which is why this event presents theoretical reflections,

artistic provocations, and insights from on-the-ground workers, owners, and users. *Who Owns the World?* convenes one hundred fifty speakers from over thirty countries to meet each other, co-design, and learn about topics such as worker power in the platform economy, antitrust, misogyny and racism in co-ops, ecological sustainability, best practices for cooperation including the allocation of startup funding, the potential of data co-ops, new models for distributed governance, and data sovereignty.

Who owns our data, our cities, the world? For three days in November, we'll field this and other questions. We'll not stop at slideshows and declarations challenging current enterprise structures but continue to advance existing and near-future alternatives. We can do better than platform capitalism! Cooperators the world over, unite now!!

ENGAGE

Twitter Hashtag

Use #CooperatorsUnite on Twitter to share your favorite quotes and impressions. For the various town halls, use the hashtags listed in the program.

Twitter Handle

Be sure to follow us @pcc_global for sneak peeks and for live coverage.



Platform Co-op Linkshare
& Discussion Forum



Add Your Co-op
Is your digital enterprise or project following the cooperative principles? Add yourself to a global index of the cooperative digital economy by taking the survey.



WhatsApp Group



Telegram Group



Livestream
Can't make some of these events? We're bringing *Who Owns The World?* to you live. Visit our Livestream page to tune in.



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

Collaborate on the Platform Co-op Development Kit
If you would like to learn more about how the Platform Co-op Development Kit could help your cooperative, email us at info@platform.coop. We look forward to hearing from you.



Sign Up for Our Newsletter
The Newsletter of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium

Wi-Fi Access at The New School

While on campus, guest and visitors to The New School may use the newschool-guest wireless network to access the Internet. You must register with your email address to obtain access to the guest network. An email will be sent to this address asking you to confirm your account. The easiest way to register is to wait until you're on campus, and then connect to the newschool-guest network on your device. Follow the directions on the page you are presented with when you connect. Once the activation email is sent to you, you will have 10 minutes of temporary wifi access to retrieve the email and activate your account for 7 days.

If you will not be able to access your email at The New School, please pre-register for a newschool-guest account before arriving on campus, click the "Pre-Register for Access" button below. Then print the email with your username/password and bring it with you. Accounts are active for one week (7 days) after registration, so don't register too early.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

In-Situ Screenings by the Artist Brett Wallace

Location:

Lower Level Event Cafe

University Center

63 Fifth Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10003

Cleaners, video, 4 min. 36 sec. (2019)

Two cleaners were hired to clean an apartment in New York City through Handy.com. This video explores the materiality of cleaning.

Uberstrike, video, 5 minutes (2019)

A video documenting Uber strikes in New York City and around the world.

AFFILIATED EVENTS

If I Only Had a Heart.

Encoding Care on and Offchain,
Open Cooperativism and Distributed
Cooperative Organizations

Tuesday, November 12

Noon-2pm

Civic Hall, 118 West 22nd St, 12th floor

Space is limited to 30

Distributed Cooperative Organizations (or DisCOs) are a cooperative reaction to the individualistic and techno-deterministic Decentralised Autonomous Organizations (or DAOs). Stacco Troncoso will present his DisCO Manifesto.

Opening of The Workers' Studio at Queens Museum

Sunday, November 10

1-5 pm

Queens Museum

New York City Building, Corona, NY 11368

The Workers' Studio is a series of collaborative art projects that use art as a tool for worker organizing. This exhibition showcases a collaboration between artist Sol Aramendi and immigrant women in cooperatives. Co-op partners include: Apple Eco Cleaning, Love and Learn Childcare Cooperative, Adhikaar, Lunicorns, Mirror Trans-led Beauty Cooperative, Brightly Cleaning Cooperative, and Mujeres en Movimiento.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019

The New School has gender neutral and ADA-accessible bathrooms available throughout all of 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 difedea@newschool.edu.

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Breakfast for the PCC Circle of Cooperators

Hosted by the Open Society Foundations
Registration required
(email [Michael McHugh](mailto:Michael.McHugh@osf.org))

9:00 AM

Registration Opens

Thursday check-in will open at 9:00 AM and will remain open until the end of the evening. Check-in tables will be located at:

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
Arnhold Hall
55 West 13th Street, NYC

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Coopathon! Designing an Index of the Digital Co-Op Space

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
Arnhold Hall
55 West 13th Street, NYC

Join us for a participatory session on how we might index the cooperative digital economy in a way that benefits all stakeholders.

This gathering invites everyone to explore individual opportunities and propose solutions for a simple, searchable, and useful index of our ecosystem. In 2020, the index will be designed as part of the Platform Co-op Development Kit.

Questions motivating our session include:

- How might we design a user experience that serves unique stakeholder information needs, from policy makers and funders to organizers and technologists and beyond?
- How might we build a tool to discover and showcase the range of digital co-op projects around the world?
- How might co-ops and other stakeholders take ownership and control of this index, ensure it benefits them, and keep it up-to-date?

Together, we'll explore these questions and co-design collective solutions.

In order to include diverse and representative participants with limited space, see online program for registration information. Registration is required.

Facilitated by [Danny Spitzberg](#)
Lunch will be provided



File Swap
*Coopathon! Designing an
 Index of the Digital Co-Op
 Space*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

6:00 PM - 6:15 PM **THIS IS ZAMBIA**

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student
 Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
 Arnhold Hall
 55 West 13th Street, NYC

Coming to us from Zambia, the Hip Hop recording artist PilAto has been called Zambia's Voice of Inequality. His contribution to WHO OWNS THE WORLD? is a remake of Childish Gambino's THIS IS AMERICA. PilAto's provocative piece, THIS IS ZAMBIA, is his take on the power captured by multinational corporations and the painful apathy of politicians who fail to build a better tomorrow with all of us, be that in Zambia or the United States. PilAto whispers and roars: Is this Zambia?

6:15 - 6:30 PM **Welcome by Trebor Scholz**

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student
 Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
 Arnhold Hall
 55 West 13th Street, NYC

6:30 - 6:40 PM

Introduction by David Van Zandt, President of The New School

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student
 Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
 Arnhold Hall
 55 West 13th Street, NYC

6:40 PM - 8:00 PM

Platform Co-ops & the Green New Deal

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student
 Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
 Arnhold Hall
 55 West 13th Street, NYC

No issue is more pressing than the climate crisis! Digital technologies can either help ameliorate this crisis or they can worsen it. Can co-ops be an alternative to extractive capitalism that refuses to acknowledge the impending catastrophe? How do we democratize the digital economy in the time of the Green New Deal? In this session, you'll learn about two groups: a platform that supports recyclers in Brazil and an e-car sharing cooperative in Spain.

Mundano (Cataki)

Uriol Alfambra (Mensakas) on
 SomMobilitat

Video Address by Dieter Janecek
 (Member, Deutscher Bundestag)

Video Address by John McDonnell
 (Opposition Finance Minister,
 British Labour Party, UK)

Respondent:

Prof. Raz Godelnik (The New School) +
 Q&A



File Swap
*Platform Co-ops & the
Green New Deal*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

8:00 PM- 8:30 PM

Break

Coffee, tea, and pastries
Catered by Co-op Cafe

08:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Imagining Common Futures

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student
Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
Arnhold Hall
55 West 13th Street, NYC

Imagining Common Futures is a guided creative workshop that will generate a collection of speculative near-future use cases and cautionary tales for collectively-owned Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning tools.

Facilitated by **Ben Gansky**



File Swap
*Imagining Common
Futures*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

08:30 PM

Screening of What is Democracy? by Astra Taylor

Location:

The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen
Auditorium - Room N101, Ground Floor
Sheila C. Johnson Design Center
66 Fifth Avenue, NYC

"Featuring a diverse cast—including celebrated theorists, trauma surgeons, activists, factory workers, asylum seekers, and former prime ministers—this film connects the past and the present, the emotional and the intellectual, the personal and the political, in order to provoke and inspire. If we want to live in a democracy, we must first ask what the word even means." - Zeitgeist

Welcome by **Trebor Scholz**.

Interview with **Astra Taylor** by
Greg Epstein followed by the screening.



File Swap
What is Democracy?

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019

The New School has gender neutral and ADA-accessible bathrooms available throughout all of 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 difedea@newschool.edu.

8:00 AM

Registration Opens

Check-in will open at 8:00 AM and will remain open until the end of the evening

Location:

Main Lobby - Ground Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

As you enter Tishman Auditorium, you'll hear music by Fela Kuti.

Read more about the music at the conference in the back of the program (Page 69).

9:30 AM - 9:40 AM

Welcome & Introduction by Tim Marshall, Provost of The New School

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,

Ground Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

#dontbelate

9:40 AM - 10:30 AM

Who Owns the World? The State of Platform Cooperativism by Prof. Trebor Scholz

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Prof. Scholz will provide a brief update on platform co-op activities around the world, introduce the newly founded Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School, and report

on the progress of The Platform Co-op Development Kit. The Kit is a multi-year project, initiated by Scholz at the Platform Cooperativism Consortium in collaboration with Jutta Treviranus and the team at the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University in Toronto.

The IDRC team members will briefly introduce their progress on the Kit and Travis Higgins, a PCC team member, will introduce the survey of the digital cooperative economy.

It is the goal of the Kit to advance the cooperative digital economy. In the spirit of cooperativism, the kit is co-designed with prospective and current platform cooperative members.



File Swap

Who Owns the World?

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

10:30 AM - 10:40 AM

Video Address by U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Introduction by Janneke House, Special Advisor Office of Sen. Gillibrand

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

**Gig Worker, Freelancer,
Self-Employed:
Who Is Watching out for Them?
What Can Cities Do?**

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

How can the worker co-op form help workers in the informal economy, marked by deregulated tech firms and a decline of unions, both in the overdeveloped world as well as in the economically developing world? How can the "Preston model" help? Where and how does technology play a role in answering these questions?

Salonie Muralidhara

(Senior Associate, SEWA Federation)

Sandrino Graceffa

(CEO, Smart.coop)

Yvon Jadoul

(Secretary General, Smart.coop)

Matthew Brown

(Leader of the Preston City Council)

Respondent:

Doug O'Brien

(President & CEO, NCBA CLUSA)



File Swap
*Gig Worker, Freelancer,
Self-Employed*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

11:30 AM - 11:50 AM

Break

As you enter Wollman for the #Platformcoop Unplugged session, you'll hear the following songs:

"Tudo que você podia ser"

("All That You Could Be")

by Clube da Esquina

"El cinismo de los poderosos"

("The Cynicism of the Powerful")

by Pablo Cabrera (Cooparte)

"Latinoamérica"

("Latin America")

by Calle 13

"Amor a mi clase"

("Love to My Class")

by Pipe Diaz (La Insurgencia)

Read more about these songs in the back of the program (Page 69).

11:50 AM - 1:30 PM

Platform Co-ops Unplugged

Location:

Wollman Hall - Room B500, 5th Floor
The Eugene Lang Building
65 West 11th Street, NYC

Think of the Platform Co-ops Unplugged session as a festival of ideas. Ask participants anything. You can walk up to the 15 delegates who will be showcasing their projects on an easel. Ask them questions and make connections. Or, you can grab an easel and present yourself on a first-come, first-served basis. Link up with allied projects around the world at various stages of development, swap print material, and find 'the others.' Have an informal exchange about ongoing and planned research. Meet old friends and make new ones. Upload materials that you want people to read in the File Swap folder, reference below.

The following delegates are slated to showcase their work:

Prof. Mark Graham

(Fairwork Foundation)

Patrick Karanja *(Online Professional Workers Association of Kenya)*

Nicole Alix *(Plateformes en Communs)*

Kriangsak Kiang Teerakowitkajorn
(Just Economy and Labor Institute, Thailand)

Denny Mews *(Coopercarga - Matriz)*

Stacco Troncoso *(Distributed Cooperative Organizations (DisCOs). A Manifesto)*

David O'Connell *(University of Kassel)*

Éder Lemke *(Ciclos)*

Jesse Brown *(Story Telling, Hudson Valley, NY)*

Prof. Itir Erhart *(Bilgi University, Turkey)*

Abdul Nasser Feitoza *(Sescoop, Platform Co-op Acceleration by the State of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil)*

Travis Higgins *(Index of the Cooperative Digital Ecosystem)*

Vitor Romero Moulin Teixeira *(CleanClic)*

Daniel Blake & students

(Music for Political Activism, The New School)

Dave Boyle *(Community Shares)*

Appeal by **Hal Plotkin**



File Swap
Platform Co-ops
Unplugged

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Lunch

Places we recommend because of their good food & reasonable turn-around time:

- **Chipotle Mexican Grill**
(504 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- **Murray's Bagels**
(500 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- **Dainobu Japanese Market**
(498 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- **Pret A Manger**
(821 Broadway, New York, NY 10003)
- **Taboonette Mediterranean**
(30 E 13th St, New York, NY 10003)
- **Newsbar Cafe**
(107 University Pl, New York, NY 10003)

Please do not sit down in a restaurant as it may take too long to get served.

The hashtag for lunch is

#AvocadoToast

12:00 - 3:00 PM

Co-Design Potluck: Designing Tech Together

This potluck is limited to 30 participants. Registration required. See online program for details.

Location:

Hirshon Suite - Room I205, 2nd Floor

Arnhold Hall

55 West 13th Street, NYC

At a potluck, we all bring something to the table and benefit from others' contributions. This workshop provides an opportunity for the cooperative community to collectively identify common needs for digital tools and processes that:

- Support the daily operations of cooperatives
- Provide guidance in starting platform co-ops
- Foster the growth of cooperative businesses

Participants will identify shared needs and collaboratively develop designs for tools that support the needs of the cooperative ecosystem.

The outcome of this workshop will include requirements, design ideas, and a plan for next steps, and will provide an opportunity to realise our shared network of resources and how they might best be applied to achieve our common goals.

Join members of the Inclusive Design Research Centre and our partner co-ops on the Platform Cooperative Development Kit project to contribute your perspectives.

We are seeking participants who are co-op members or those with resources and skills to contribute. Be prepared to discuss the gaps in your organization's digital toolkit and share the ingredients that make these tools work. We hope this event will connect community members with resources to carry this work forward. We can't wait to see what you'll bring to the table!

Facilitated by the
Inclusive Research Design Centre
Lunch will be provided

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Screening of "GIG-- The Uberization of Work" by Carlos Juliano Barros

Location:

The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Auditorium - Room N101, Ground Floor
Sheila C. Johnson Design Center
66 Fifth Avenue, NYC

The advance of the so-called "gig economy" has promoted debates on

precariousness and the intensification of work. This Brazilian documentary engages with these developments.

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Concurrent Town Halls in Various Locations

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 at The New School. 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 hour of the session is dedicated to discussion that promptly engages the people who are not on the stage. Find the presentations in the File Swap folder.

Town Hall 1

The Capital Conundrum

Location:

Theresa Lang Community and Student Center - Room I202, 2nd Floor
Arnhold Hall
55 West 13th Street, NYC

Without access to real capital, the cooperative digital economy cannot thrive. Platform co-ops around the world struggle to access start-up funding given that traditional venture capital is not appropriate for these enterprises. Various groups have received foundation funding. British cooperators are using the Community Shares Model, which allows them to benefit from tax incentives for startups. Adapting the Mondragon process, cities like Cleveland (US) and Preston (UK) follow an ecosystem approach to launching and

funding worker cooperatives. Yet others explore ways of creating “user trusts” to democratize the Internet. Learn about diverse financial instruments and strategies that can help groups to launch an upstart without venture capital. Together with the International Cooperative Alliance, philanthropists, and communities worldwide, we need to urgently take bold steps to meet these challenges.

Facilitated by **Prof. Kevin McQueen**

Prof. Chris Mackin (*Ownership Associates*)

Felix Weth (*Fairmondo*)

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

Prof. Nathan Schneider

(*University of Colorado*)

Prof. Olivera Marjanovic

(*University of Sydney*)

Ludovica Rogers

(*Co-operatives UK*)

Amelia Evans (*MSI Integrity*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#capitalconundrum



File Swap

Friday- Town Hall 1

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 2

Labor Power for the Platform Economy Now! Digital Labor Is Not Free.

Location:

Room UL104, Basement Level

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

The world of work is not working for

too many people. Labor Law in many countries including the United States is broken. That’s why we ask: What are innovative forms of associational power for workers in the gig economy? Can we re-imagine and rebuild the gig economy in a fundamentally fairer way? How important a role does ownership - and Employee Stock Ownership Plans in particular- play in creating leverage for platform workers? How aware are workers of the ownership option? Do cooperatives emerge when unions fail, or do unions have an essential role to play in co-op development? How much hope do we place in the enforcement of AB5, a law passed by the California State Senate requiring platforms such as Uber and Lyft to treat their drivers as employees? How can technology help to link up, organize, and empower geographically dispersed workers?

Facilitated by **Rebecca Lurie**

(*CUNY Worker Center*)

Sabine Kock (*Smart*)

David O’Connell

(*United Service Workers Union*)

Fredrik Söderqvist (*Unionen*)

Ra Criscitiello

(*California Cooperative Platform Economy Act*)

Tina Vu Pham

(*National Domestic Workers Alliance*)

Maru Batista (*Up&Go*)

Luciana Bruno (*ICDE*)

Camile de Araujo Just

(*Women in Blockchain in Brazil*)

Minsun Ji (*ICDE*)

Erik Forman

(*Independent Drivers Guild*)

Derick Ongansie

(*Platform Co-op Community Organizer, South Africa*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#LaborPower



File Swap
Friday- Town Hall 2

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 3

Data Co-Ops as a Path Toward Data Sovereignty

Location:

Room UL105, Basement Level
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Beyond the analysis of how surveillance capitalism is extracting data and controlling our lives, this session is pointing to a way forward for the democratization of digital infrastructure. Without ownership of the platform or protocol, how do we move from Big Tech's data extraction to data sovereignty? From "smart cities" to the healthcare sector, music streaming and beyond, data cooperatives are becoming more relevant to founders who work to democratize the Internet through cooperatively owned digital infrastructure - from social media to cloud services and beyond.

Facilitated by **Prof. Koray Caliskan**
(*The New School*)

Vanni Rinaldi (*Legacoop*)

Ron Kim (*New York Assembly Member*)

Yeshimabeit Milner (*Data for Black Lives*)

Rob Stone (*DataVest*)

Matthew Cropp (*Social.coop*)

Morshed Mannan (*ICDE*)

Maggie Hughes (*MIT*)

Jun Kawasaki (*Commons Co-op*)

Rafael Zanatta (Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology, and Society Studies)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#DatacoopsFTW



File Swap
Friday- Town Hall 3

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 4

Intersectional Solidarity: Against Misogyny and Racism in Co-ops

Location:

Room A404, 4th Floor
Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th Street, NYC

While platform co-ops, just like all cooperatives, promise shared ownership and democratic governance, they are not exempt from conflicts around race, gender, class, ability, sexual orientation and identity. By fighting against everything from systemic inequities to microaggressions, how can cooperatives become more self-aware and inclusive, and even lead the fight for intersectional solidarity? What are common blindspots in cooperatives that fail to see these issues and act on them?

Facilitated by **Prof. McKenzie Wark**
(*The New School*)

Prof. Jessica Gordon-Nembhard
(*John Jay College*)

Prof. Sujatha Jesudason (*The New School*)

Prof. Mark Lipton (*The New School*)

Leo Sammallahti (*Co-op Exchange*)

The hashtag for this townhall is
#IntersectionalSolidarity



File Swap
Friday- Town Hall 4

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 5

Distributed Governance

Location:

Room U304, 3rd Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Meet a group of entrepreneurial platform co-op founders presenting on enterprises that range in maturity, from emerging to well-established. They hail from as far as Turkey, Belgium, Finland, Spain, and Indonesia. The focus of the discussion is the governance of geographically dispersed independent contractors. Aggregating members and workers on a platform comes with unique opportunities for increasing participation and potentially also for distributed decision making.

Facilitated by **Ela Kagel**
(*Platform Co-op Berlin*)

Javier Creus

(*Salus.coop*)

Francesca Martinelli

Chiara Chiappa

(*Doc Servizi*)

Ali Ercan Ozgur (*Needs Map*)

Novita Puspasari (*Innovation Hub, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman*)

Mike Cook (*Stocksy United*)

Richard Jensen (*Resonate.coop*)

Prof. Simon Pek

(*Gustavson School of Business*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#DistributedGovernance!



File Swap
Friday- Town Hall 5

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Break

Coffee, tea, and pastries

Catered by Co-op Cafe

As you enter Tishman Auditorium for the Global Movement Updates session, you'll hear Glory to Hong Kong (anthem, sign language version). Read more about this anthem in the back of the program (Page 69).

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Global Movement Updates

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor

The University Center

63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Facilitated by **Prof. Trebor Scholz**

We are proud to present an overview of activities in several countries. We will hear about successes and failures, too. In quick succession, presenters will offer you a global overview. We'll go around the world in 90 minutes.

James de le Vingne (*UK*)

Osamu Nakano (*Japan*)

Derick Ongansie (*Platform Co-op Community Organizer, South Africa*)

Ela Kagel (*Germany*)

Prof. Mario De Conto (*Brazil*)

Martijn Arets (*Netherlands*)

Novita Puspasari (*Indonesia*)

Vanni Rinaldi (*Italy*)

Sabine Kock & Lisa Pointner (*Austria*)

Prof. Jack Qiu (*Hong Kong*)



File Swap
Global Movement Updates

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Break

Coffee, tea, and pastries

Catered by Co-op Cafe

7:30 PM - 7:50 PM

We Are All Animals, a Children's Strike

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor

The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

The artist Gabo Camnitzer and The Sixth Street Community Center (SSCC) are collaborating to facilitate children in developing alternative modes of protesting for climate justice. Engaging with the radical history of children's strikes of the past 200 years, children at SSCC are developing their own forms of protest, ones which might point beyond the confines of sanctioned forms of demonstration. We are proud to offer our conference as the site of this performative intervention.

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Fireside Chat with Anand Giridharadas by Wilma Liebman

(Followed by Q&A)

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor

The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

This highlight event of Day 2, will feature award-winning author Anand Giridharadas in conversation with Wilma Liebman, former chair of the National Labor Relations Board under the Obama Administration and current co-chair of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy.

Anand Giridharadas' *Winners Take*

All shines a spotlight on the moral contradictions that capitalism's wealthy philanthropists present — between their stated aims to do good and the realities of the social and economic harms that their wealth accumulation may create or worsen. Nonetheless, he seems optimistic that there are solutions to our social ills, possibilities for positive cultural change. Creating a cooperative digital economy is one hopeful response to the problems he describes, as we will explore with him.

Pick up a free copy of Anand's book at the reception.



File Swap
Anand Giridharadas

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Appeal by **Hal Plotkin**

9:45 PM - 12:00 AM

A Night of Liberation:

Music & celebration with Rabbi Darkside
& The New School Hip Hop Collective

Location:

Starr Foundation Hall - Room UL102,
Basement Level
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Join us for a night of libations, moving
bodies, and hip hop music to kick
back and relax after the first day of
conferencing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019

The New School has gender neutral and
ADA-accessible bathrooms available
throughout all of 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
difedea@newschool.edu.

8:00 AM

Registration Opens

Check-in will open at 8:00 AM and will
remain open until the end of the evening

Location:

Main Lobby - Ground Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

09:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Welcome by Executive Dean Mary Watson,

Schools of Public Engagement, The New
School

Special Address by the
NYC Mayor's Office

Introduction by **Prof. Trebor Scholz**

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

9:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Owning Our Power: Young Lions of the Co-op Movement

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

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,
franchisement of the co-op model,
the encouragement and facilitation
of democratic governance among
distributed producers, collaboration with
unions, technological innovations relying
on blockchain, 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.

Facilitated by **Trebor Scholz**

Maru Batista & Sylvia Morse (*Up&Go*)
Mike Cook (*Stocksy United*)
Oriol Alfambra Serrano, Nuria Soto,
Txiki Blasi (*Mensakas*)
Martin Van Den Borre (*Eva*)
Emma Black (*Equal Care Co-op*)
Matt Schumwinger & Hays Witt
(Driver's Seat Cooperative)
Damiano Avelino & Emanuele Dal Carlo
(Fairbnb.coop)
Jen Horonjeff (*Savvy Cooperative*)
Riccardo Carboni (*Cotabo*)

Facilitated by **Trebor Scholz**



File Swap
*Young Lions of the Co-op
 Movement*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Digital Co-op Fractals: Iterations, Patterns, Questions

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
 Ground Floor
 The University Center
 63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

For this session, we are tracing emerging patterns within the cooperative digital ecosystem. We asked Juliet Schor, Joseph Blasi, Gar Alperovitz, Jack Qiu, and Melissa Hoover to each pose a question, which they'll then answer for 10 minutes. Then, we will open it up to everybody for a People's Q&A. Here are the questions that will guide our discussion:

- How best can platform cooperatives contribute to fundamental community-based system-wide political-economic transformation?
- What are the particular challenges that platform cooperatives face?
- How will the quality of the jobs for the workers you expect to work in the cooperative you are designing be better than similar jobs in non-worker-owned firms?
- What are the essential elements of platforms that aggregate the power and resources of workers rather than atomizing them?
- How to start a platform co-op while minimizing the dangers of an authoritarian crackdown?

Facilitated by

Luciana Bruno & Amelia Evans

Prof. Joseph Blasi

(Rutgers University)

Melissa Hoover

(Democracy at Work Institute)

Prof. Gar Alperovitz

(Democracy Collaborative)

Prof. Jack Qiu

(Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Prof. Juliet Schor *(Boston College)*

Appeal by **Hal Plotkin**



File Swap
*Digital Co-op Fractals:
 Iterations, Patterns, and
 Questions*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM

Break

Coffee, tea, and pastries
 Catered by Co-op Cafe

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Reports by the Research Fellows of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy

Location:

Tishman Auditorium - Room U100,
Ground Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

In April, 2019, Prof. Trebor Scholz founded the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School. Hear brief reports from the six inaugural research fellows:

"Everything Old is New Again: Evaluating the Legal and Governance Structures of Emergent Protocol Cooperatives"

Morshed Mannan

"The Potential of Platform Cooperativism in Kenya"

Francis Mwangela Mikwa

"Organizing Precarious Workers in South Korea Through Platform Cooperatives"

Prof. Minsun Ji

"Connecting Waste Pickers in Brazil - Cataki, a Case Study"

Luciana Bruno

"Political and Legislative Obstacles for Platform Co-ops in the U.S., Germany, and France"

Jonas Pentzien

"Funding Cooperatives: New Possibilities"

Amelia Evans



File Swap

*Reports by the Research
Fellows of the Institute for
the Cooperative Digital
Economy*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

01:15 PM - 2:45 PM

Lunch

We recommend these places because of their good food & reasonable turn-around time:

- Chipotle Mexican Grill
(504 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- Murray's Bagels
(500 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- Dainobu Japanese Market
(498 6th Ave, New York, NY 10011)
- Pret A Manger
(821 Broadway, New York, NY 10003)
- Taboonette Mediterranean
(30 E 13th St, New York, NY 10003)
- Newsbar Cafe
(107 University Pl, New York, NY 10003)

Please do not sit down in a restaurant as it may take too long to serve all of you.

The hashtag for lunch is #AvocadoToast

02:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Concurrent Town Halls in Various Locations

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 at The New School. Think of the format of the town hall as a topically-focused town hall, not a traditional panel. Each speaker has

5 minutes to introduce their work. The second hour of the session is dedicated to discussion that promptly engages the people who are not on the stage. Find the presentations in the File Swap folder (find links below each session). Add your own, relevant material there, too.

Town Hall 1

Cooperation: Best Practices

Location:

The Auditorium - Room A106, Ground Floor

Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th St, NYC

Many in the movement are starting a business for the first time. They urgently need to know how and where to incorporate, write bylaws, how to become investor-ready, create a financial model, test with users, and establish a sales funnel. They want to learn how to hire, set up a bonus plan, and establish fair performance reviews of members-owners. Founders need to determine how to attract people will provide and use their service. While the United States has somewhat accommodating co-op laws, the laws in other countries such as Canada, Brazil, and Japan are still just developing. How do we help national cooperative associations develop the legal frameworks and language to accomodate platform co-ops in their co-op law? Come and learn about these legal strategies and hands-on practices.

Facilitated by **Micky Metts**
(*Agaric*)

Greg Brodsky (*Start.coop*)
Howard Brodsky
(*Cooperatives for a Better Life*)

James de le Vingne
(*UnFound/Co-operatives UK*)
Jonathan Gordon-Farleigh
(*UnFound/Stir to Action*)
Antti Virolainen (*ShareTribe*)
Riccardo Carboni (*Cotabo*)
Lisa Pointner (*Smart*)
Mario de Conto (*OCB*)
Osamu Nakano
(*Worker Cooperatives Japan*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#CoopBestPractices



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 1

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 2

Showing Up for One Another

Location:

Room A406, 4th Floor
Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th Street, NYC

Social problems don't exist in isolation. This session brings together groups that fight for economic justice. Although some projects may not be directly working on platform co-ops, our work is connected. Our liberation, likewise, is bound together. In order to win the fight for the next possible system, our movements need to build together. Not only must we inform, support, and inspire each other, but we have to show up for one another. Cooperative principles compel us to deepen practices of solidarity. That's why co-ops need to more actively project their values outward, and link up with a range of

groups, whether these are technologists, farmers, domestic workers, or activists. Facilitated by **Esteban Kelly** (*US Federation of Worker Cooperatives*)

Mariela Benavides Espronceda
(*Techo Mexico*)

Jordi Picas Vilà
(*Suara.coop*)

Sixth Street Youth Program

Lindsey Shute
(*National Young Farmers of America, Farm Generations*)

Damiano Avellino
(*Fairbnb.coop*)

Stacco Troncoso
(*Peer to Peer Foundation*)

The hashtag for this town hall is #ShowingUp



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 2

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 3 **Building a Tech Industry That Is Better for All**

Location:
Room 404, 4th Floor
Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
66 W 12th Street, NYC

Tech cooperatives run without venture capital funding. They treat their workers fairly and give them control over their businesses. Tech co-ops are more resilient and better positioned to advance participatory design and open source/free software. Why, then, is open source/free software not a

priority for more tech co-ops? How does participation in shaping a design help to foster a sense of investment? In the co-design process, how do diverse perspectives help to surface potential problems, especially among edge users? How do cooperative values align with co-design/participatory design? What is in your cooperative tool shed?

Facilitated by **Greta Byrum**
(*Digital Equity Laboratory at The New School*)

McKenzie Jones (*CoLab*)

Cheryl Li (*IDRC*)

Jill Dimond (*Sassafrass*)

Marcel de Oliveira Coelho
(*Cooper Systems*)

Louis Cousin
(*Startin'blox*)

Ned Zimmerman (*IDRC*)

Una Lee ("and also to")

Bastien Sibille (*MobiCoop*)

The hashtag for this town hall is #CoopToolShed



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 3

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 4 **Wrestling Back Independence with Media Co-ops**

Location:
Room U304, 3rd Floor
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

The role of journalism in public life has been re-energized in the face of "post-truth" debates. Discussions focus on the failures and malfunctions, but rarely

on near-term alternatives that could democratize the media. What promise do platforms and cooperatives offer in a sector that is paradoxically more consolidated than ever before? Can media co-ops become the platform business model of the future for literary agents, authors, journalists, actors, and talent agents? Can this model wrestle back artistic independence and make producers less susceptible to the takeover of special interests?

Facilitated by **Prof. Manoj Fenelon**
(*The New School*)

Prof. Heather Chaplin
(*The New School*)

William Clark
(*WM Clark Associates*)

Victoria Alexander
(*Dactyl Foundation*)

Miles Hadfield
(*Thenews.coop*)

Ela Kagel
(*Platform Co-ops Berlin*)

Sabine Kock
(*Smart*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#MediaCoops



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 4

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 5 Practitioners on Organizational Leadership

Location:
Room UL104, Basement Level
The University Center
63 Fifth Avenue, NYC

Hear about emerging or expanding platform co-op enterprises working in a range of sectors. From Italy, UK, Spain, U.S., Argentina, and Brazil, these projects demonstrate the diversity and impact of platform co-ops in industries such as home care, short-term rental, food delivery, transportation, and music. Which role can unions play in the platform economy? How can co-ops solve the most seemingly unsolvable problems for freelancers? Talk to founders directly about how they have managed to incorporate, author bylaws, become investor ready, and create a financial model. What lessons for organizational leadership did they learn? Come and learn how to lead better.

Co-Facilitated by Executive
Dean Mary Watson and
Associate Dean Michele Kahane
(*The New School*)

Austin Robey (*Ampled*)
Joseph Cureton (*Staffing Cooperative*)
Mariana Vilnitsky (*Holidays Exchange*)
Denny Mews (*Cargon, Brazil*)
Francesca Martinelli (*Doc Servizi*)
Emma Back (*Equal Care Coop*)
Nuria Soto, Oriol Alfambra Serrano,
Txiki Blasi (*Mensakas*)
Leo Sammallahti (*Co-op Exchange*)

The hashtag for this town hall is
#WeOwnIt!



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 5

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

Town Hall 6

The Legal Kit for Starting Platform Co-ops in the U.S.

Location:

Room 517, 5th Floor

Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street, NYC

As part of the work on Platform Co-op Development Kit, the PCC is collaborating with Columbia Law School. It is the goal of this work to make the legal part of launching a platform co-op easier. What are the pertinent questions that you will have to answer when setting up the various types of platform co-ops in the United States? Which legal problems did you struggle with when launching a co-op in the United States? If you are a co-op developer in the U.S., join this session to learn about the ongoing work on the legal side of the Platform Co-op Development Kit.

Prof. Katharina Pistor
(Columbia Law School)

Zachary R. Barker
(Columbia Law School)

Shannon Zhang
(Columbia Law School)



File Swap
Saturday Town Hall 6

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

04:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Break

04:30 PM - 5:00 PM
The Morning After the Coming Silicon Valley Bust

Location:

The Auditorium - Room A106,
Ground Floor

Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street, NYC

Acknowledging techno-authoritarianism and the chasm between the upper few and the lower many, antitrust scholars and activists are gaining momentum.

They are questioning---and presenting alternatives to---current market and firm structures. Could cooperatives emerge in the wake of antitrust legislation? In the coming Silicon Valley bust that will spell the end of many high-flying “disruptors,” will we be ready to take over key infrastructure?

Sandeep Vaheesan and
Nathan Schneider in Conversation



File Swap
*The Morning After the
Coming Silicon Valley Bust.*

Download PDFs of the presentations and background readings. Share your own documents in this folder.

5:00- 5:30 PM
Cooperators of the World, Unite!

Location:

The Auditorium - Room A106, Ground
Floor

Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street, NYC

For three days, each session highlighted the strengths, qualities and problems at the heart of our work all over the world. Platform co-ops have been embraced by many as one near-term solution on the way to a post-capitalist society.

For this finale, participants read one haiku- or tweet-length sentence inspiring us where to go next.

The 2020 annual platform co-op event, focusing on the cooperative commons, will be held November 12-14 in Berlin, Germany. It'll be facilitated by the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Berlin Social Science Center), the Weizenbaum Institute, and the Institute for Ecological Economy Research.

BIOGRAPHIES

Abdul Nasser

Abdul Nasser is a specialist with an MBA in Tax Law from Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Professor of Cooperative and Tax Law in MBA FGV courses, and LL.M IBMEC. He is the organizer of Fintech Week with IBMEC and the World's First Platform Cooperativeness Cluster on a 1,000-programmer Hackaton, the largest Hackaton.Rio in Latin America.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abdulnasserco>

Ali Ercan Özgür

Ali Ercan Ozgur holds a Ph.D. from Marmara University on the "Development Agencies in Turkey under the auspices of the EU". He also holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Marmara University and an MSc in Governance and Development Management degree from the University of Birmingham. Ali Ercan is currently the founder and Managing Director of IDEMA International Development Partners and co-founder of Needs Map, Inogar (Innovation Garage) and InogarArt (Art Incubation Center). Needs Map is a non-profit platform co-op where people in need meet the people who want to support. Our map-based platform enables supporters to see location-based needs (around their neighborhoods, city of their interest, etc.), thus serving to create responsible communities.

<https://needsmap.coop/>

Amelia Evans

Amelia Evans is an international human rights lawyer and an expert on business and human rights. In 2012, She co-

founded MSI Integrity, a non-profit organization that examines the impact and value of voluntary initiatives that address business and human rights. Amelia has investigated and reported on business and human rights-related issues in a number of countries, most particularly in the Central African and Asia-Pacific regions. Previously, she was the Global Human Rights Fellow at Harvard Law School and was a clinical supervisor at Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic. She also clerked at the New Zealand Court of Appeal, and worked at the Crown Law Office in New Zealand and the Victoria Government Solicitor's Office in Australia. Amelia obtained her LL.M. from Harvard Law School, and LL.B. (Hons.) and B.C.A. (Economics and Finance) from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Amelia also works on nonfiction/ documentary film projects. She is a fellow of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@MSIIntegrity](#)

Anand Giridharadas

Anand Giridharadas is the author of *Winners Take All*, *The True American*, and *India Calling*. He is an editor-at-large for *TIME* and was a foreign correspondent and columnist for *The New York Times* from 2005 to 2016. He has also written for *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, and *The New Yorker*. He is an on-air political analyst for MSNBC, a visiting scholar at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University, and a former McKinsey analyst. He has spoken on the main stage of TED. Anand's writing has been honored by the Society of Publishers in Asia, the Poynter Fellowship at Yale, the 800-CEO-READ Business Book

of the Year award, Harvard University's Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award for Humanism in Culture, and the New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Award. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. Anand will be in conversation with Wilma Liebman (former Chair of the National Labor Relations Board) about his book *Winners Take All*, the New York Times bestselling, groundbreaking investigation of how the global elite's efforts to "change the world" preserve the status quo and obscure their role in causing the problems they later seek to solve. An essential read for understanding some of the egregious abuses of power that dominate today's news.

[@AnandWrites](#)

Antti Virolainen

Antti is the Co-founder and COO at Sharetribe, a Helsinki-based startup that creates software tools that make it easy and affordable for all teams, entrepreneurs, and co-ops to start their own platforms. A web developer turned culture lead and life coach, Antti knows how to fix things in the digital and human code.

[@gnomet](#)

Astra Taylor

Astra Taylor is a Canadian-American documentary filmmaker, writer, activist and musician. She is a fellow of the Shuttleworth Foundation, for her work on challenging predatory practices around debt.

[@astradisastra](#)

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>

Bastien Sibille

President of Mobicoop cooperative, Bastien has had three main dimensions to his work since 1999: A political dimension, through his commitment to digital forms of common goods and, especially, free software. This commitment has led him to be Secretary General of the International Free Software Association and to take public positions (National Assembly, Senate, Economic and Social Council, media etc ...) on the political issues related to digital monopolies. An entrepreneurial dimension, through the creation and management of several social enterprises: TALCOD, the digital agency of the general interest; the POP Group; Mobicoop cooperative, main cooperative carpooling platform in Europe. Finally, an academic dimension, through the completion of a PhD in the Canada Research Chair in Governance and his teachings at York University (Toronto). Bastien graduated from Sciences Po

Paris. He holds a Master's degree in philosophy from the Sorbonne and a PhD from the Université de Montréal.
<https://www.mobicoop.fr/>

Ben Gansky

Ben Gansky is excited to facilitate a forum for organizers and entrepreneurs to leap over short-term, reactionary thinking to get to visionary possibilities for a future radically different than our present. Through guided creative collaboration, participants will envision stories of the future products + programs that could shape our world over the next generation — for better and for worse. Ben is an artist, game designer, and community organizer with over a decade of experience creating narrative experiences as platforms for community organizing, culture shift, and policy change. He is a co-founder and the executive director of Free Machine, a nonprofit collective developing creative programs that awaken civic participation at the intersection of emerging technology and public policy. Ben is also the Research and Engagement Manager at Institute for the Future's Equitable Futures Lab, where he was a 2018 IFTF Fellow for Good. Ben holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University.

[@bengansky](#)

Brett Wallace

Brett Wallace is a New York-based artist whose practice involves a multi-level exploration of work, technology, and the greater economy. Working in writing, video, installation, and performance, he is best known for the use of socially focused documentary to explore the labor practices, spaces, and economic systems of advanced capitalism. He is also the founder of AMAZING INDUSTRIES, a research engine that

opens discussions about work among artists, citizens, organizers, and workers. His work has been published in The New York Times, Brooklyn Rail, ARTnews, Artnet, Artslant, Hyperallergic, Brooklyn Magazine, BmoreArt, and WHITEHOT magazine, and included in exhibitions at Silas Von Morisse Gallery (New York), SPRING/BREAK Art Show (New York), Reshaping Work (Amsterdam), Gallery 46 (London), and NURTUREart (New York). He holds a BFA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

[@brett.wallace](#)

Camile Just

Just Virtual launched in 2016, when Camile Just already worked by herself providing office services remotely and started to connect with other women who wanted to do the same. It then became a community of working women who earn their incomes from home, transforming unemployed and mothers who were seeking new professional alternatives into virtual assistants. Just Virtual has been changing these women's relationship with work, providing them with autonomy, ethics and freedom! We are launching an exclusive platform to connect Virtual Assistants directly to their customers, without intermediates. "The project came from my desire to create a field where people could have another kind of relationship with work, using their skills and knowledge, allowing work-life balance. Since the beginning of my journey as a virtual assistant, I have always wanted to expand, but not as a regular business with office schedules and wage-based employees".
<https://www.justvirtualreal.com.br/>

Camille Kerr

Camille consults with businesses advancing economic and racial justice. She specializes in developing innovative worker-centered legal structures and supporting existing businesses to become worker-owned. Before starting an independent consulting firm, Camille served as the Associate Director of The ICA Group, the Director of Field Building at the Democracy at Work Institute and the Director of Research at the National Center for Employee Ownership. Camille also supports the work of academic institutions, field-building nonprofits, labor organizations, policy makers, social enterprises, and community groups promoting economic democracy. Camille is currently a board member of the Interaction Institute for Social Change, a steering committee member for the Cooperative Professionals Guild, a member of the Council of Cooperative Economists, an executive fellow with the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing at the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, on the advisory board for start.coop and Certified Employee Owned, and was on the planning committee for the Platform Cooperative Conference 2017. She has a law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law where she was awarded a human rights fellowship and graduated cum laude.

@camilleakerr

Carlos Juliano Barros

Carlos Juliano Barros is an investigative journalist and a documentary filmmaker from São Paulo, Brazil. He has covered labor, environmental and human rights issues for GQ, Rolling Stone and Folha de S. Paulo. One of the founders of

Repórter Brazil, a benchmark of decent work promotion in Latin America, he has already directed six short and feature-length documentary films. Some of them have been selected for prestigious festivals around the world, such as DOK Leipzig (Germany), Queer Lisboa (Portugal), Doc Point (Finland) and FIDOCs (Chile). Carlos has also been nominated for some of the most important Brazilian journalistic awards. Carlos is the director of the documentary *The Uberization of Work*, which will be shown at the conference.

[@CarlosJulianoB2](https://twitter.com/CarlosJulianoB2)

Cheryl Li

Cheryl is a designer at the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University, where she's working on the Platform Co-op Development Kit. She's particularly passionate about using participatory and inclusive practices to translate creative expression and lived experiences into tangible experiences. <https://idrc.ocadu.ca/>

Chiara Chiappa

Chiara Chiappa is a labor consultant specializing in cooperatives, social enterprises, show business enterprises, and self-managing platform cooperatives. A member and advocate of cooperatives since 1982, she is a founder member of six cooperatives in the cultural, creative, press, IT and publishing fields. She is president of the Centro Studi Doc Foundation, where she studies the application of the cooperative model to different sectors of the economy and social issues. Chiara collaborates with Italian unions to study how to protect the dignity of work and she is the promoter of the first National Collective Labor Contract for show business

cooperatives. She is also the founder and spokesperson of the “Table of Legality and Security in Show Business”, and part of “ShowNet”, a network of technician cooperatives.

[@chiarachiappa1](#)

Christopher Mackin

Christopher Mackin is the Founder and President of Ownership Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, MA. Ownership Associates provides “after the transaction” assessment, training and corporate governance services to companies broadly owned by their employees. He also serves as a partner at American Working Capital, LLC, an investment banking firm that specializes in broad based employee ownership transactions. Chris is a Lecturer at the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations where he teaches an undergraduate course called Employee Ownership and Group Incentives. He held the Sidney Harman Fellowship at the Kennedy School of Harvard University and earned a Doctorate in Human Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education with a thesis called The Social Psychology of Ownership: A Case Study of a Democratically Owned Firm. He writes occasionally for the PBS Newshour, The New Republic, The Nation and Challenge: The Magazine of Economic Affairs.

<http://ownershipassociates.com/>

Damiano Avellino

Damiano Avellino is the co-founder of Fairbnb.coop, a platform co-operative that allows people to travel in a sustainable way while giving back to the communities in the destinations they travel to. Damiano advocates new alternatives to the current extractive

digital economy, promoting platform cooperativism as a fair alternative to creating platforms based on solidarity and inclusion.

[@Fairbnb_coop](#)

Daniel Blake

Saxophonist and composer Dan Blake has led a wide-ranging career that spans many genres and musical communities. His work has been commissioned by new music luminaries like Mivos Quartet, the Tri-Centric Orchestra, and has received support from The Jerome Foundation, New Music USA and ASCAP. He also produces the annual Concert To Feed The Hungry, an event celebrating the struggle to end hunger and malnutrition in poor communities around the world. He has toured and performed with Grammy-winner Esperanza Spalding, Julian Lage, NEA Jazz Master Anthony Braxton, Velvet Underground founding member John Cale and many others. He holds a Ph.D. in composition from the City University of New York and is on faculty at Lang College at The New School, where he currently teaches the seminar “Music for Political Action.”

<http://danielblake.net/>

Daniel Sauter

His works have been shown internationally, including the OK Center for Contemporary Art (Ars Electronica Festival, Linz '04 and '09), ACM SIGGRAPH Convention and Exhibition Centers (Boston '06 and Los Angeles '10), China Millennium Art Museum (Beijing International New Media Arts Exhibition '06), Metropolitan Museum of Photography (Tokyo '05), National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (Taichung '05), Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (International

Film Festival Rotterdam '06), Microwave International Media Art Festival (Hong Kong '06), Art Center Nabi (Seoul '06), Luminale Biennial for Light Culture (Frankfurt '10), Hangar Bicocca Center for Contemporary Art (Mixed Media Milan '06), Armory Center for the Arts (Pasadena '05), Ospedale Degli Innocenti (Beyond Media Festival Florence '05), Telic Gallery (Los Angeles '04), and the LA County Museum of Art LACMA Lab (Los Angeles '03).

<http://danielsauter.com/gallery.php>

Danny Spitzberg

Danny Spitzberg is a principal researcher at Peak Agency, based in Oakland, California. He volunteers with #BuyTwitter, a campaign to transform Twitter into a user-owned co-op. Danny does fieldwork with community and researches ways to build powerful community platforms. He sees cooperative conversions as key to closing loopholes in our political and economic system.

@daspitzberg

David O'Connell

David is a trade unionist from the United Kingdom currently writing his doctoral thesis in Germany. As a trade unionist, he has organized workers in a number of industries, including construction, retail and logistics, in three countries. He is currently a member of the United Service Workers Union (ver.di) and the Industrial Metalworkers Union (IG Metall) in Germany. In Germany, he has established a works council in a small company, served in it, and assisted other works councils in the metal industry. His current research, funded by the Hans Boeckler Foundation, focuses on the means by which trade unions can convert

existing firms to employee ownership, and the benefits to the workers and the union in terms of increased power resources which result from this strategy. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/oconnelluk/>

David Van Zandt

David E. Van Zandt became The New School's president in 2011. He has advanced a vision for The New School that elevates the university's core values of creativity and social engagement and connects its strengths in design, social research, liberal arts, and performance. He has led the development of strategic initiatives to deepen The New School's commitment to student success, global education, new and distinctive educational models, and institutional effectiveness and assessment. David has spoken and written widely on higher education, including regular articles in the Huffington Post on topics such as college accountability, universities and the creative economy, and the importance of education that fosters innovation and the courage to bring about positive change in the world. He has spoken on panels at the United Nations, the World Cultural Forum (Taihu, China), and the World Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. David was dean of the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law from 1995 to 2010. Under his leadership, Northwestern Law transformed its approach to admissions, education, and social engagement. He led changes in the school's academic programs to prepare students for the new demands of the global marketplace. Earlier in his career, David was an associate with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. He also served as a law clerk for Judge Pierre N. Leval, U.S. District Court for the Southern District

of New York (now on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit), and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. He holds an AB from Princeton University, a JD from Yale Law School, and a PhD in sociology from the London School of Economics.

<https://www.newschool.edu/>

Denny Mews

Denny's purpose is to teach and help people through technology, education and awareness. He has worked on technology and logistics for over 20 years. He was responsible for the creation and consolidation of the innovation sector of Coopercarga. Coopercarga realized that it was necessary to innovate to remain in the market. Thus, they created, 3 years ago, the first closed innovation program and started training about it. They understood that digital transformation was inevitable so they then created an open innovation program, which attracted many new businesses. As they evaluated the market, they saw a necessity and deficiency in transport, warehouse and distribution. They decided to completely separate the business and this way Cargon, a digital logistics operator, emerged with a focus on people, cooperation and logistics. The separation was crucial, because they created a new culture and a new business model which today is already in the market, creating disruptions in actual logistic and cooperative model.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dennymews/>

Dieter Janacek

Dieter Janacek was born in Pirmasens on May 25, 1976. He is a Roman Catholic, married with three children. Dieter is a

member of the German Parliament since 2013. He was elected as a spokesperson for the digital economy and digital transformation for the parliamentary group of his political party Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen (Green Party). Furthermore, he is holding positions in the following bodies of the German Bundestag:

- Chairman of the Green parliamentary group of the Committee on the Digital Agenda
- Member of the Green parliamentary group of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy
- Member of the Green parliamentary group of the Committee of Enquiry on Artificial Intelligence
- Janacek is also engaged in a wide range of other political or civil associations and committees (e.g. the political advisory committee of the Federation of the Entrepreneurs Associations, the political advisory committee of the German AI Federation, the political advisory committee of the Federation 3D printing).

[@DJanacek](#)

Doug O'Brien

Doug O'Brien is the President & CEO of NCBA CLUSA, where he works with the cooperative community, both domestically and internationally, to deepen its impact on individuals and communities. NCBA is the primary voice for cooperatives in the United States for using the cooperative business model to empower people in their businesses and communities. Doug has been with NCBA since 2016, where he has served as the Executive Vice President of Programs before becoming president and CEO in January 2018.

[@ncbaclusa](#)

Éder Lemke

Éder is Vice President of a credit union and member of the Board of Directors of the platform co-op Ciclos, which operates in the areas of energy, telephony, and health. He graduated in Business Administration with an MBA, focusing on project management, e-business, and cooperative management. For over 20 years, he has worked with credit unions, focusing on technology and innovation services.

<http://ciclos.coop.br/>

Ela Kagel

Digital strategist Ela Kagel specialises in the intersection of society, technology and economy. Since the 1990s she has produced media art exhibitions, designed spaces for cultural exchange and helped establish digital platforms, networks and communities. She is a long-time collaborator and researcher at the Public Art Lab in Berlin. From 2009 to 2011 she was program curator for the Transmediale Festival for Art and Digital Culture in Berlin. While at Transmediale 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. From this perspective, she also established and curated Upgrade! Berlin, as well as a number of commons-related research projects. In 2010 Ela co-founded SUPERMARKT, an independent hub for digital culture and collaborative economy. Ela is co-initiator of the #Platformcoop Berlin meetups. Since 2018, Ela is also a board member of RChain Europe, a technology cooperative based in Berlin.

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

Emanuele Dal Carlo

Emanuele Dal Carlo is an entrepreneur and a social activist in Venice. With more than 30 years of experience in marketing and design, he has often put his skills in the service of public causes and social activities. Along with friends and colleagues, he has spearheaded various grass-roots initiatives in Venice. More recently, he has launched a think tank called RESET Venezia that in summer 2015 has lifted the lid on the growing phenomenon of short-term rentals in Venice. Following that research, Emanuele Dal Carlo and his colleagues have launched Fairbnb.it, developing the basic business model that later — after joining forces with the homonymous group in Amsterdam — became the core of the Fairbnb.coop project. Emanuele Dal Carlo's main company DNA Italia is also the first funder (sowventore) of Fair Bnb Network Società Cooperativa, the co-op structure behind Fairbnb.coop project. He is currently President of Fair Bnb Network Società Cooperativa.

<https://fairbnb.coop/>

Emma Adelaide Back

After working in community-based charities, mental health and advocacy services, Emma founded Equal Care Co-op in 2018 with the aim of redressing the power imbalance in the UK's social care system. People getting support, their families, and the workers giving the help get very little say in how care and support services work and how they're funded. Equal Care is developing a platform to match caregivers and receivers and to facilitate how the care happens, keeping the decision-making power in community hands. Through an alternative currency, they are also intending to increase the peer

and volunteer support available to those receiving care. They are a multi-stakeholder co-operative, owned by those who do the work and the people who get the support. they have an Investor member class, which has a smaller proportion of the vote share and they recently closed a successful community share offer (hooray!). That said, it's still very early, very exciting days – their journey is just beginning. <https://www.equalcare.coop/>

Erik Forman

Erik Forman is implementing strategies to transform the gig economy through cooperative development and worker ownership with the Independent Drivers Guild, a Machinists Union affiliate organizing app-based drivers in New York City and beyond. Prior to his work with the IDG, Erik spent a decade leading groundbreaking efforts to unionize the US fast food industry and other initiatives in the labor movement. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center. @erikforman

Esteban Kelly

Esteban is the Executive Director for the US Federation of Worker Co-ops and a founding worker-owner in AORTA, a co-op whose facilitation supports organizations fighting for social justice and a solidarity economy. Esteban previously worked at the New Economy Coalition and has worked in co-ops for over 20 years. He is a board member of the American co-op apex organization, the National Cooperative Business Association, known internationally as CLUSA. He is a mayoral appointee and co-chair of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory

Council and won a Social Innovation Award for Public Policy in 2018. [@USFWC](https://twitter.com/USFWC)

Fairuz Mullagee

Fairuz Mullagee is a researcher and coordinator of the Social Law Project at the UWC, South Africa. She has about thirty years of extensive research and management experience that includes policy design and analysis, program delivery and monitoring and evaluation for improving efficiency. She has worked with a number of government departments, parastatals, and NPOs including the Constitutional Assembly where she served as the Submissions Secretary in the process of drafting the first democratic Constitution for South Africa. Her vast experience has provided her with great insight into many spheres of society. Pursuance of a social justice agenda has enabled her to craft innovative and sustainable solutions for a broad range of problems such as the promotion of rights for domestic workers. She currently manages a project for the establishment of a cooperative platform for domestic and care workers. Through cooperation with the PCC, the project hopes to contribute through co-design of the Platform Development Kit, to building model for worker empowerment and democratic ownership. <https://www.uwc.ac.za/Faculties/LAW/Pages/Social-Law-Project.aspx>

Felix Weth

Felix is the founder of Fairmondo, an online-marketplace owned by its users. He holds degrees in political science, philosophy, economics, public policy, and administration. As an anti-corruption activist, he traveled through Africa and

other “developing countries” where he saw how corruption deprives especially young people of life chances. For him, this experience highlighted the structural deficiencies of our economic and political systems. Later, he developed the model of “cooperative 2.0” and founded with Fairmondo its first implementation as a corruption-resistant, transparent, platform cooperative.

[@fairmondo](#)

Francesca Martinelli

Francesca Martinelli, after a Masters Degree in Philosophy and Ethics, obtained at the Università del Sacro Cuore of Milan in 2012, she got in 2017 a Ph.D. in “Human Capital Formation and Labour Relations” at the University of Bergamo in co-tutorship with Paris VIII Vincennes-St.-Denis. Now, she is in charge of institutional communication and international relations at the Italian cooperative Doc Servizi, and she is in the board of Doc Creativity. By the end of 2018, she is the director of the Centro Studi Doc Foundation, where she is in charge of research and development and advocacy. In 2018 she was awarded the prize “Astrolabio del sociale – Pierre Carniti” announced by Centro Studi CISL with an essay about cooperatives as new forms of representation from a European perspective, that has been published in 2019.

<https://www.docservizi.it>

Francis Mwangela Mikwa

Mwangela is a Kenyan journalist and researcher in ICTs, focusing on the growth of co-ops in Third World countries. He has six years of work experience at Kenya’s Co-operative University where he taught and served as the Head of Public Relations and

Marketing. He is the Chief Public Relations Officer of the National Council for Population and Development in Kenya. Mwangela is a Public Relations Professional offering comprehensive experience in Journalism and corporate communications. He has served as the editor of Kenya’s The Co-operator magazine and an editorial board member of Kenya’s Co-operative Magazine. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication; a Masters Degree in Communication Studies; and currently a Ph.D. candidate in Communication Studies at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega, Kenya. Mwangela has attended various national and international conferences.

[@mwongelaf](#)

Fredrik Söderqvist

Fredrik is a senior economist at Unionen, a Swedish trade union organising white collar workers in the private sector, a PhD student in industrial economics at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, and currently a visiting researcher at the Institute for Work and Employment Research at MIT Sloan. His work focuses on atypical employment arrangements, algorithmic management practices, and collective bargaining.
<https://www.unionen.se/>

Fumba Chama

The Zambian Hip Hop recording artist PilAto has been called Zambia’s Voice of Inequality. His contribution to WHO OWNS THE WORLD? is a remake of Childish Gambino’s THIS IS AMERICA. PilAto piece is called THIS IS ZAMBIA. The song discusses the capture of political and economic power by multinational corporations and the unwillingness of

politicians to unite the people for a better tomorrow.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PilAto>

Gabo Camnitzer

Gabo Camnitzer is an interdisciplinary artist and educator working at the intersection of experimental pedagogy and sculpture. Through installations and workshops which place emphasis on embodied learning processes, Camnitzer develops sites for experimentation with alternative forms of meaning-making. Drawing on his experience working in early childhood education, Camnitzer often works collaboratively with children to examine the interplay of agency and social structure in subject formation. Camnitzer has presented projects at Queens Museum, New York; GfZK, Leipzig; Artists Space, New York; Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm; Nurture Art, New York; Gertrude Contemporary Art Center, Melbourne; and Kunstsaele, Berlin, among others. He received an MFA from Valand Academy and attended the Whitney Independent Study Program. In 2015 he received a research fellowship from The Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, Sweden. He currently sits on the editorial board of the art journal, Paletten. Camnitzer is Visiting Assistant Professor in Visual Art at Columbia University, New York. At Who Owns the World, Gabo Camnitzer and The Sixth Street Community Center (SSCC) will facilitate children in developing alternative modes of protesting for climate justice. Engaging with the radical history of children's strikes of the past 200 years, children at SSCC are developing their own forms of protest. <http://gabocamnitzer.com/>

Gar Alperovitz

Gar Alperovitz is an American historian and political economist. Alperovitz served as a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge; a founding Fellow of the Harvard Institute of Politics; a founding Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies; a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution; and the Lionel R. Bauman Professor of Political Economy at the University of Maryland Department of Government and Politics from 1999 to 2015. He also served as a Legislative Director in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate and as a Special Assistant in the US Department of State. Alperovitz is a distinguished lecturer with the American Historical Society, co-founded the Democracy Collaborative and co-chairs its Next System Project with James Gustav Speth.

[@GarAlperovitz](#)

Greg Brodsky

Greg Brodsky is the founder and executive director of Start.coop, which is an accelerator for shared ownership businesses. Greg brings a powerful background of strategy, tech, and entrepreneurship. Perhaps best known for launching the nation's only purchasing co-ops for bicycle stores and for craft breweries, Greg's work has ranged from business development to strategic planning. Greg also currently serves as board chair of the Cooperative Development Institute.

[@startdotcoop](#)

Gregory Martin Epstein

A prominent leader in the national movement to build positive, inclusive and inspiring humanist communities, Greg M. Epstein has served the country's rapidly growing population

of nonreligious people for nearly two decades. Described as a “godfather to the [humanist] movement” by The New York Times Magazine in recognition of his efforts, Epstein was also named “one of the top faith and moral leaders in the United States” by Faithful Internet, a project coordinated by the United Church of Christ with assistance from the Stanford Law School Center for Internet and Society. Greg currently serves as the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University, a position he has held since 2005. He also serves the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Office of Religious Life as Humanist Chaplain at MIT and “Convener,” and is the Executive Director of the Humanist Hub at Harvard and MIT, a secular community-building that was the first of its kind. Greg has helped establish similar organizations at Yale, Stanford, USC and other academic institutions.

[@gregmepstein](#)

Greta Byrum

Greta Byrum reimagines the way we design, build, control, and govern communications systems. As Co-Director of the Digital Equity Laboratory at the New School and Director of the Community Tech New York project, she builds digital justice through applied research, co-designed community technology projects, and policy strategy. Previously Byrum founded and led the Resilient Communities program at New America, where she developed and led Resilient Networks NYC, an initiative bringing training, tools, and equipment for storm-hardened mesh WiFi to five neighborhoods in NYC’s flood plains. Current projects include community wireless network collaborations in rural Tennessee and the Hudson Valley as well

as a curriculum and manual for 2020 digital decennial census preparedness. An urban planner, poet, and digital justice organizer, Byrum also serves on the board of the Metropolitan New York Library Council.

[@gretabyrum](#)

Hal Plotkin

From 2009 to 2014, Hal W. Plotkin served as the Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary of Education, United States Department of Education, which has responsibility for all federal U.S. higher education policies and programs. In 2003, Plotkin initiated the Foothill-De Anza Community College District’s Policy on Public Domain Learning Materials, which are now more commonly known as Open Educational Resources.

[@HalPlotkin](#)

Hays Witt

Hays is a long-time progressive organizer and a subject matter expert in the new mobility and future of workers fields. He’s lead major organizing projects and policy initiatives at SEIU and the Partnership for Working Families, consulted for the cities of Portland and Seattle, and advised non-profit clients like the National Employment Law Project. Driver’s Seat Cooperative empowers gig workers to capture the value of the data they create, while challenging the deep information asymmetries manifest in platform work. We give rideshare drivers and on-demand delivery workers the technology and the organization to collect and share their data, and put it to use improving their work lives and their communities.

[@DriversSeatCoop](#)

Heather Chaplin

Heather Chaplin is the founding director of Journalism + Design at The New School, co-host of the podcast Tricky, a columnist at Columbia Journalism Review, and a former fellow at The Tow Center for Digital Journalism. Chaplin started her career at Salon where she wrote The Reluctant Capitalist column. Over the years, she's worked for many publications, such as The New York Times and All Things Considered. She is the co-author of Smartbomb: The Quest for Art, Entertainment and Big Bucks in the Videogame Revolution, a New York Times Notable Book of 2006. Chaplin has been recognized for her work on digital culture and the future of journalism in places including The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, The Believer, CBS Sunday Morning, Talk of the Nation and The Nieman Report, among other places. Chaplin is also a frequent speaker on these topics. Her most recent book, Reckless Years: A Diary of Love and Madness was published by Simon & Schuster in 2017.

[@heatherchaplin](https://www.heatherchaplin.com)

Howard Brodsky

Howard Brodsky is a world leader of co-operatives and a prolific American entrepreneur. He is the Co-Founder, Chairman, and CEO of CCA Global Partners, one of the largest Cooperatives in the United States with sales of over 10 billion. A pioneer of the cooperative business model, Brodsky dedicated his career to helping entrepreneurs build successful businesses by providing the scale and resources they needed to compete. CCA Global Partners has more than 2800 retail locations, services 20,000 childcare centers, 2,000 nonprofits, and services over 1,000,000

independent family businesses. Brodsky was awarded the 2019 Global Leadership Award by the World Affairs Council, inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame, World Floor Covering Industry Hall of Fame, and awarded New Hampshire Business Leader of the Year. Brodsky is the Founder and Chairman of the Cooperatives for a Better World, a worldwide non-profit, which aims to scale the global cooperative movement. Brodsky serves on the Board of Directors for SolutionHealth, Southern New Hampshire University, National Cooperative Business Association, and Chairman of the Better Business Bureau. Brodsky is a published author and can be seen as part of the highly-selective TEDx talk series.

[@_HowardBrodsky](https://www.howardbrodsky.com)

İtir Erhart

İtir Erhart is Associate Professor at Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey. She studied philosophy and Western Languages & Literature at Bogaziçi University. İtir completed her M.Phil in Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. Since 2001, she has been teaching and conducting research on gender, human rights, sports and civil society.

She is the co-founder of Adim Adim (Step by Step) a volunteer-based organization that promotes charitable giving through sponsorship of athletes in local sports events.

Erhart is also co-founded Açık Açık a platform which unites donors with NGOs that respect the rights of donors. In 2016 Açık Açık received Transparency International's award for civil society. She is an Ashoka Fellow and Ashoka Turkey Board Member, a TEGV (Educational

Volunteers Foundation of Turkey) Trustee and Advisory Board Member at Sabanci Foundation.

[@itirerhart](#)

Jack Linchuan Qiu

Jack Linchuan Qiu is a Professor at the School of Journalism and Communication, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he serves as director of the C-Centre (Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research). His publications include *Goodbye iSlave* (U of Illinois Press, 2016), *World's Factory in the Information Era* 信息时代的世界工厂 (Guangxi Normal University Press, 2013), *New Media Events Research* 新媒体事件研究 (Renmin U Press, 2011), *Working-Class Network Society* (MIT Press, 2009), *Mobile Communication and Society* (co-authored, MIT Press, 2006), some of which have been translated into German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean. Associate Editor for the *Journal of Communication*, he is on the editorial boards of a dozen international academic journals, including six indexed in the SSCI. He also works with grassroots NGOs and provides consultancy services for international organizations.

[@jacklqiu](#)

James de le Vingne

James is the Head of Development at Co-operatives UK. He is interested in new ways of organizing and ownership, and how this informs systems change with a focus on tech solutions. Recent work involves launching Level, a new business registration platform of sole-traders looking to work cooperatively, and UnFound, a platform co-op accelerator.

[@CooperativesUK](#)

Javier Creus

Javier is considered to be one of the primary strategists and thought leaders in open and contributive business models, collaborative economy, citizen innovation and the networked society. Creator of the Pentagrowth methodology for business model design. He has been a strategic planner, co-founder of the multidisciplinary space @Kubik, and marketing professor at ESADE. 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 citizen data cooperative for health research.

[@saluscoop](#)

Jen Horonjeff

Jen Horonjeff, PhD, is the founder and CEO of Savvy Cooperative, the first and only patient-owned public benefit co-op that helps healthcare companies connect directly with diverse patients in order to get the insights they need to build better and more inclusive innovations. Jen was named one of the 50 Most Daring Entrepreneurs of 2018 by Entrepreneur Magazine, alongside the likes of Elon Musk, Chance the Rapper and Reese Witherspoon, for her application of the cooperative model. Savvy has additionally won seven awards, and has been featured in Fast Company and the Boston Globe. Jen grew up with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and survived a brain tumor as an adult. She is also a health outcomes researcher at Columbia University Medical Center, a human factors engineer, and an FDA Consumer Representative. Jen earned her Master's in Ergonomics and Biomechanics and PhD in Environmental Medicine, both from New York University. Utilizing her

unique perspective, Jen is a sought after thought leader on patient engagement around the globe. She strives to give patients a platform to have their voices and expertise be heard, included, and equitably valued—because the future of healthcare is co-designed with patients. [@jhoronjeff](#)

Jesse Brown

Jesse is a humanistic storyteller focusing on working with clients and teams that align with values first. He spent the last 15 years developing and honing his storytelling crafts in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and New York City. He is now back in the Hudson Valley where it all started. He co-founded and ran The Jackson Hole Snowboarder Magazine for 7 years, unknowing at the time that he was setting himself up with a passion in the localism movement. Having filmed on mountains in Alaska to the streets of Rwanda to studios in Brooklyn, he specializes in all aspects of cinematography and is very comfortable in any situation he may find himself in. Jesse also takes projects from conception to completion with a skill set that includes: writing, producing, directing, and editing. Looking for deeper connection and collaboration, Jesse is now focusing his efforts on building and understanding platform cooperatives to challenge the current distribution models. He is a co-founder of Hudsy TV, a platform cooperative focused on localized storytelling in the Hudson Valley. He strongly believes in the power of storytelling and the collective power we hold as artists. <https://hudsy.tv/>

Jessica Gordon-Nembhard

Jessica Gordon Nembhard (born July 3, 1956) is an American political economist. She is the author of *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice*, and has written many articles in major economic journals. She is currently Professor of Community Justice and Social Economic Development in the Department of Africana Studies at John Jay College, City University of NY. Gordon-Nembhard was inducted into the U.S. Cooperative Hall of Fame in May, 2016.

Jill Dimond

Jill Dimond is a founding worker-owner of Sassafras Tech Collective, a worker-owned tech consultancy based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has over 15 years of experience in tech holding diverse roles such as a designer, researcher, developer, and product manager. She holds a PhD in Human Centered Computing from Georgia Tech, and a computer science in engineering degree from the University of Michigan. She has published many scholarly works in the field of social computing and has been awarded numerous grants from the NSF, NIH, and the Knight Foundation. Her tech work in anti-harassment movements on the street and online has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the BBC, and others. She is also a facilitator with training from cooperative and justice movements. Because she just can't get enough of consensus in her life, she lives at Touchstone Cohousing in Ann Arbor with her partner and four year old kid. [@sassafrastech](#)

John McDonnell

John Martin McDonnell is a British politician serving as the Member of Parliament since 1997. A member of the Labour Party, he has been Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (opposition Finance Minister) since 2015. He served as chair of the Socialist Campaign Group in Parliament and Labour Representation Committee; McDonnell also chaired the Public Services Not Private Profit Group. The Labour Party announced that it will roll out “community car clubs” run by co-operatives and local authorities, focusing on marginalized areas.

[@johnmcdonnellIMP](#)

Jonas Pentzien

Jonas Pentzien is a researcher at the Berlin-based Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), where he investigates and compares 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? If yes, are there maybe other platform economies besides the often-discussed Chinese and American models? Since 2017, Jonas is also a member of platforms2share, 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 fellow of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@ioew_de](#)

Jonny Gordon-Farleigh

Jonny Gordon-Farleigh is the co-founder of Stir to Action, a co-operative building a new economy through democratic ownership. Our work directly supports economic change through national workshop programs, strategic economic development, and a quarterly magazine that focuses on how democratic business can transform social inequality, climate change, mental health, and our political culture.

[@StirToAction](#)

Jordi Picas Vilà

Jordi Picas is the director of innovation at Suara Cooperative, a social economy company from Catalonia with more than 35 years of experience in the care for people sector. With more than 4,500 professionals, SUARA responds to care, assistance and educational needs of children and young people, families, people who require some kind of support to be more independent, people who seek to overcome crisis situations or want to enter the labor market or improve professionally. He is the Director of Suaralab, a laboratory for social innovation, which aims to transform ideas into projects while also incorporating technology into our business.

[@suaracoop](#)

Joseph Blasi

Joseph R. Blasi is an American economic sociologist, currently a Distinguished Professor and the J. Robert Beyster Professor at Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations. He graduated with an Ed.D from Harvard University.

[@JosephBlasi](#)

Joseph Cureton

The Staffing Cooperative is the first worker-owned cooperative holding company. It starts and acquires human-centered businesses for its cooperative membership. Through its subsidiaries the cooperative builds power for workers through shared ownership and democratic control. Joseph works to bring new worker enterprises to life within the cooperative. He is a founding member of Core Staffing, Bmore Black Techies, and Tribe Works all projects that the fight to overcome the challenges faced by modern workers. He is a software engineer and chef by trade.

[@staffing_coop](#)

Juliet Schor

Juliet Schor is Professor of Sociology at Boston College. She has studied trends in working time, consumerism, the relationship between work and family, women's issues and Economic inequality, and the environment and concerns about climate change. From 2010 to 2017 she studied the sharing economy under a large research project funded by the MacArthur Foundation.

[@JulietSchor](#)

Jun Kawasaki

At age 17, Jun participated in the project "Q&A Now," which was acquired by OK Wave, one of the biggest Q&A

social communities in Japan. Next, he established several digital start-ups such as "Tokyo Otaku Mode." In 2016, he established "GIFTED AGENT Co. Ltd." to support people with developmental disabilities. At the same time, Jun started to develop a blockchain operating system while also taking on an advisory role in that sector. In 2017, he became co-founder of "Commons Inc" and devoted himself to advancing the small, alternative, economic projects that connect people with one another. Through "Commons Coop," Jun now promotes experimental projects which are run on blockchain.

<https://hello.commonsoflove/>

Jutta Treviranus

Jutta Treviranus is the Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC) and professor at OCAD University in Toronto <http://inclusivedesign.ca>, formerly the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre. The IDRC conducts proactive research and development in the inclusive design of emerging information and communication technology and practices. Jutta also heads the Inclusive Design Institute a multi-university regional center of expertise on inclusive design. Jutta is the Co-Director of Raising the Floor International. She also established and directs an innovative graduate program in Inclusive Design. Jutta has led many international multi-partner research networks that have created broadly implemented technical innovations that support inclusion. These include the Fluid Project, Fluid Engage, CulturAll, Stretch, FLOE and many others. Jutta and her team have pioneered personalization as an approach to accessibility in the digital domain. She has played a

leading role in developing accessibility legislation, standards, and specifications internationally.

[@idrc_ocadu](#)

Kirsten Gillibrand

One of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's top priorities in the United States Senate is to build an economy that works for every New Yorker. Senator Gillibrand is determined to make sure that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to reach their full potential. She is fighting every day to create more good-paying jobs and to support entrepreneurs around the state. Senator Gillibrand has authored and passed bipartisan legislation to reward work, such as the Main Street Employee Ownership Act to provide federal support to cooperatives, and bipartisan legislation to provide the skills training our workers need for success, such as the 21st Century SHOP CLASS Act. She also passed into law bipartisan legislation to rebuild manufacturing communities across the state.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/>

Katharina Pistor

Katharina Pistor is the Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law at Columbia Law School and Director of the Law School's Center on Global Legal Transformation. Her research and teaching spans corporate law, corporate governance, money and finance, property rights, and comparative law and legal institutions. She has published widely in legal and social science journals. Her most recent book is "The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality" (Princeton University Press, 2019). In 2012 she was co-recipient (with Martin Hellwig) of the Max Planck Research Award on International Financial Regulation; in

2014 she received the Allen & Overy Prize for the best working paper on law of the European Corporation Governance Institute; and in 2015 she was elected member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. She is also the recipient of research grants by the Institute for New Economic Thinking and the National Science Foundation. Pistor received her law degree from Freiburg University in 1988 and qualified for legal practice in 1992 after clerking for the Hamburg Court of Appeals. She obtained a Masters in Law from the University of London in 1989; a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government in 1994; and a Doctorate in Law from the University of Munich in 1998. Prior to joining Columbia Law School, Pistor has held academic positions at the Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University), and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law in Hamburg. She has held visiting positions at several universities, including University of Pennsylvania Law School, New York University Law School, Frankfurt University, London School of Economics, Oxford University, and Harvard Law School.

Koray Caliskan

Koray Caliskan is faculty fellow at the New School's Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies and Associate Professor of Politics at Bogazici University. He received his Ph.D. with distinction from New York University's Politics Department, with which he won the Malcolm Kerr Social Science Award from MESA. His book *Market Threads: How Cotton Farmers and Traders Create a Global Commodity* came out from Princeton University Press and focused on global commodity markets and

relations of economization. He is the founder of mamame.com.tr, a social innovation project bringing together the organizational form of cooperative and limited liability in economizing under-represented women's labor, which won the Entrepreneurship of the Year Award in 2017 from Microsoft Turkey. Currently, he works on blockchains and teaching design (and) economies at Parsons and NSSR. He is an Affiliate Faculty at the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

[@koraycaliskan](#)

Kriangsak Teerakowitkajorn

Kriangsak is the founder and Managing Director of Just Economy and Labor Institute (JELI), a Bangkok-based organization working to foster solidarity, autonomy, and movements for economic justice. He is a trained economist, labor geographer, and facilitator for social change, with a decade of experience promoting human rights and grassroots movements in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Since 2017, Kriangsak has led JELI's innovative programs, which use research as a tool for capacity-building and movement-building with workers. JELI's partners include the Asia Pacific Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Dignity Returns, one of the first worker-owned cooperatives in Bangkok. JELI is currently building on its research on platform-based work and worker-owned initiatives to support the development of a movement for solidarity economy in Thailand.

<https://www.justeconomylabor.org/>

Leo Sammallahti

Leo works for Coop Exchange, a platform co-op that will enable cooperatives to raise capital by issuing non-voting shares for investors. He is also a co-founder of WeCo, an online link-sharing

and discussion forum similar to Reddit owned cooperatively by its users and a co-director of Platform6 cooperative that seeks to build an easily accessible, global online community of cooperative developers.

[@Sammallahti](#)

Lindsey Shute

Lindsey Lusher Shute is CEO of the Farm Generations Agricultural Cooperative and co-owner of Hearty Roots Farm in New York. Farm Generations offers GrownBy, a software platform for farmers that will launch for the 2020 farming season. GrownBy helps farmers organize direct market sales through an online marketplace, and will help farmers build the overall market for locally and sustainably grown produce through consumer campaigns. Digital food sales are critical and farmers' survival depends on their ability to build equity and ownership in this marketplace. Current platforms are destabilizing and extractive for farmers who are already at risk under climate and market changes. Farm Generations and GrownBy will help these growers gain stronger footing, strengthening farm communities and national food systems. Before FarmGen, Lindsey co-founded the National Young Farmers Coalition and served as executive director for ten years.

[@llshute](#)

Lisa Pointner

Lisa Pointner is the internal legal advisor of the cooperative Smart in Austria. She focuses on finding solutions regarding social security and taxation issues in the autonomous workers sector. Lisa studied Law at the University of Vienna and specialized in copyright and artist contracts. From 2009 – while still a student – she founded InTension Music, a music publishing house and an artist

management agency. Since 2014, she is also part of the project SmartAt Mobility – an online platform and counseling center to inform artists who work trans-nationally in various legal fields. Lisa works as an advisor and editor of the website www.smartatmobility.com

Lisa Strausfeld

Strausfeld studied art history and computer science at Brown University and received master's degrees in architecture from Harvard University and in media arts and sciences from the MIT Media Lab. In 1996, Lisa Strausfeld and two MIT classmates launched Perspecta, a software company in San Francisco that made visual user-interfaces for large databases. It was sold to Excite@Home in 1999. After the sale of the company, Strausfeld joined Quokka Sports, staying until the company folded in the early 2000s.[1] In 2002, Strausfeld became a partner in the New York office of Pentagram, the distinguished international design consultancy. At Pentagram, Strausfeld and her team specialized in digital information projects, including the design of large-scale media installations, software prototypes and user interfaces, signage and websites for a broad range of civic, cultural and corporate clients. Strausfeld left Pentagram in 2011 to establish Major League Politics, and subsequently left MLP in 2012 to head up Bloomberg's data visualization efforts. [@strausfeld](https://twitter.com/strausfeld)

Louis Cousin

Louis is a researcher and consultant in cooperative development and innovation. He draws his expertise from a diverse professional background, including

management of international projects on cooperative innovation, implementation of international cooperation program for sustainable development, and co-founding a cooperative business. His current activities are both academic and entrepreneurial. As a PhD student at Laval University (Quebec, Canada), he specializes in digital transformation of cooperative ecosystems, involving cooperative associations, cooperative platforms, and "traditional" primary cooperatives. As a cooperative entrepreneur at Startin'blox (Paris, France), he participates in the development of open-source technology enabling decentralized collaboration among cooperatives. The project entails data standardization (through Solid standards), interoperability, modularity and peer-to-peer exchange of data. [@LouisCsn](https://twitter.com/LouisCsn)

Luciana Bruno

Luciana Bruno is a Brazilian journalist. For the last 15 years, she worked for international news agencies such as Reuters and AFP, covering especially Economics. She now works for the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC Rio), covering Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. Last year, she concluded her Master's degree in Information Science. Her dissertation was about the work in start-up companies — autonomy versus precarious work. She is a research fellow of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School. Luciana is researching the case of Brazilian platform Cataki, an app that matches individuals who have recyclable waste in their homes with waste pickers, or "catadores" in Portuguese, operating in their

neighborhoods. Through interviews, the research purpose is to know whether Cataki actually increases the income of the collectors and whether it allows some kind of organization of those workers. The study is important for analyzing the conditions of a widely marginalized group of workers in Brazilian society. <https://platform.coop>

Ludovica Rogers

Ludovica Rogers is the program manager for new co-op ventures at Co-operatives UK, where she is developing a support program for the platform co-operative sector in the UK. She is also an architect, process designer and activist and her personal work and research focus on the overlaps between the commons, tech and finance.

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

Lukas Reichel

After graduating in Electrical Engineering (ETH Zurich), Lukas worked for 10 years as the control engineer, project and team leader in the traction converter BU of ABB Switzerland and as founder of a Smart Grid startup company. In 2016 he co-initiated the Catalan platform cooperative for sustainable mobility Som Mobilitat SCCL. In the same year, Som Mobilitat joined forces in APP development for e-car sharing with the Belgium cooperative Partago CVBA. This collaboration resulted in the foundation of The Mobility Factory SCE in December 2018, as a second level European cooperative to provide technological platform services to its members. As today (Sept. 2019) we count 10 cooperatives from four European countries and REScoop.eu, the European federation of renewable energy cooperatives as our members. Actually,

over 100 shared electrical cars operated by citizens communities are managed through our platform. Lukas' projects will be represented at WHO OWNS THE WORLD by Oriol Alfambra of Mensakas. <https://www.sommobilitat.coop/>

Maggie Hughes

Maggie is a graduate student at the MIT Media Lab and a researcher within the Lab for Social Machines. With a background in social science and design, Maggie dove into the world of computational social sciences and helped build classifiers for Electome, a project that analyzed the social media discussion on the 2016 presidential election. In 2018, her thesis analyzed and visualized the public's response to and polarization around mass shootings on Twitter, and she observed concerning public discourse. As a part of her graduate studies, she contributed to projects like the Local Voices Network in an effort to nurse maladies in the public sphere through in person facilitated conversations and participatory media. Now, in an attempt to aid remote and online group collaboration and cooperation, she is designing and developing online environments informed by and modeled after ancient social technologies like Circle Process. In the long term, she's interested in designing these environments with modern grassroots movements and co-ops in mind, hoping to support their mission of radical, transformative social change by enabling structurally sustainable, bottom up facilitation and decision making methods online.

Matthew Brown

Councillor Matthew Brown is Leader of Preston City Council in the north of

England, where he has been widely credited as the driving force behind the Preston Model, an economic strategy at the city and county level that presents a comprehensive, interlinked approach to community wealth building as a practical and transformative alternative to austerity and disinvestment. First elected to represent the Tulketh ward in 2002, Councillor Matthew Brown subsequently took on portfolios that included community engagement and inclusion, social justice and policy initiatives, leading to his election in 2018 as Council Leader, and to a position as an advisor to the Labour Party's Community Wealth Building Unit.

[@MatthewBrownLab](#)

Manoj Fenelon

Manoj is a futurist and inner-space explorer. He believes we are living in interesting times — when all that we know is turned downside up, and our collective soul is turned inside out in all its monstrosity and splendor. Manoj has dedicated himself to a mission of helping those who think they are lost realize they are not as lost as they think. He draws from his lived experience to design, facilitate and otherwise guide processes that contribute to the conscious evolution of individuals and groups. His service manifests through his teaching and research, advising on foresight and leadership, public speaking, writing, and music. Manoj explores leading with compassion and designing for a regenerative economy at The New School(s) for Design, and Public Engagement in New York. Previously, he was a social intra-preneur in a Fortune 50 corporation, starting a strategic foresight practice to co-envision and pilot more sustainable and equitable futures, as

also a radically new leadership training experience developed by grassroots employees.

Manuela Bosch

Manuela is designing, guiding and supervising processes for and between people and their visions by integrating mindfulness-based leadership with project-management and knowledge around self-managed teams and change processes. She is applying this in facilitating Retreats, Workshops, Consulting, Incubators, Rituals, Vision-, Mission-, Brand-Design, Entrepreneurship, Team Communication, Community Building – in offices, in nature and in digital environments. Manuela brings 13 years of experience in consulting and project management, helped around 80 cooperative teams with Dragon Dreaming, inspired facilitation over the past 9 years and reached hundreds of founders, leaders, and seekers through workshops and retreats.

[@BoschManuela](#)

Marcel de Oliveira Coelho

Marcel is a software analyst at Coopersystem, a Brazilian tech cooperative of some 120 developers. He is part of Coopersystem's Innovation Board, which is researching and modeling new business models– from artificial intelligence chatbots and company automation to financial services. Coopersystem is deeply enmeshed in the Brazilian startup scene. They are interested in learning how to bring together the scaling ability of the sharing economy with the humanizing economy of cooperatives. One of their initiatives is Tiva, a platform for cooperatives that offer housekeeping, repair and cleaning services.

Coopersystem is currently working with various cooperatives that employ former prisoners that have a hard time finding employment.

Through the platform, Coopersystem aims to bring economic stability to them and their families.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/coopersystem>

Mariana Vilnitzky

Founder of the magazine Alternativas Económicas, Vilnitzky is a journalist specialized in social economy issues, with several years of dedication to the cooperative movement. She is also a former editor of La Nación Press Group in Buenos Aires. Today Vilnitzky is engaged in promoting, with Jose Grau, Daniel Tamajón and Margot Pascual, the International Platform Coop “Holidays Exchange” (HEC).

The monopolistic practices that are taking place at the home exchange market have monetized and weakened the old swap atmosphere. A worker/consumer owned coop will permanently guarantee the philosophy of the exchanges (cultural exchange, peace, solidarity, friendship...); and that the data of its members will not be transferred to third parties, as has happened elsewhere.

Although investors are very welcome, good part of the trading surplus will be used to promote projects of responsible tourism, tackling climate change, poverty and inequality, according to policies decided by the members.

[@maruvilni](#)

Mariela Benavides Espronceda

Born in Tamaulipas in 1990, Mariela studied International Affairs at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León,

Mexico. She participated in investigation projects about gender quotas in politics throughout Latin America.

In 2011, she became as a youth volunteer for Techo to fight extreme poverty in Latin America, by constructing transitional housing and implementing social inclusion programs. In 2013, she was hired as Local Director for the volunteer team in Monterrey which, under her leadership, became one of the most recognized volunteer teams in the city. Since 2017, she participated in Techo’s national fundraising team. Mariela strongly believes that decisions made by a collective, however small they may seem, are those that can change the world.

[@techomx](#)

Marina Gorbis

Marina Gorbis is Executive Director of the Institute for the Future (ITF), a 50-year old non-profit research and consulting organization based in Silicon Valley. She has brought a futures perspective to hundreds of organizations in business, education, government, philanthropy, and civic society. Marina’s current research focuses on transformations in the world of work and new forms of value creation. She launched the Workable Futures Initiative at ITF with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of new work patterns and to prototype a generation of Positive Platforms for work. She has introduced the concept of Universal Basic Assets (UBA) as a framework for thinking about different types of assets and the role they play in economic security, as well as highlighting a variety of approaches and tools we can use to achieve wider asset distribution and greater equity. Marina’s book,

The Nature of the Future: Dispatches from the Socialstructured World, explores many of these themes and draws connections between the changes in our technology infrastructure and our organizational landscape, from education to governance and health. She holds a BA in psychology and a MA in public policy from UC Berkeley.

[@mgorbis](#)

Mario De Conto

Mario De Conto is Ph.D. 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.

[@mariodeconto](#)

Mark Graham

Mark Graham is the Professor of Internet Geography at the Oxford Internet Institute, a Faculty Fellow at the Alan Turing Institute, and a Visiting Researcher at WZB Berlin. He leads a range of research projects spanning topics between digital labour, the gig economy, internet geographies, and

ICTs and development. A full list of his publications and projects is available at www.markgraham.space. He is the Director of the Fairwork Foundation: a project that conducts research measuring digital labour platforms against indices of fairness in order to encourage better working conditions in the sector.

[@geoplace](#)

Mark Lipton

Mark Lipton is graduate professor of management at The New School in New York City. For over forty years, he has been a trusted adviser to a diverse client base, including founders of transformative start-ups, global Fortune 500 companies, think tanks, and some of the world’s largest NGOs. Mark’s latest book, Mean Men, synthesizes decades of psychological research to expose what really drives this subset of America’s leaders. As surprising as it is alarming, the book reveals dark truths about a psychological disorder that rules many of our boardrooms, and challenges the status quo with a more effective humanistic approach to leadership.

[@MarkFLipton](#)

Martijn Arets

Martijn is an international expert and thinker in the field of emergence and development of the platform economy. Since 2012 years Martijn is traveling the world to (so far) talk to 500+ entrepreneurs, experts and other stakeholders in 16 countries behind the upcoming collaborative economy. To find out what is really happening, who the stakeholders are, what the main dilemmas are and to explore the conditions under which platforms can contribute to a more inclusive society. As a bridge builder and independent

professional outsider, he uses these insights and this network to get stakeholders like platforms, trade unions, government, and incumbents together to address relevant issues in a constructive way. Martijn has a special interest in multi-stakeholder ownership and governance models like platform cooperatives and steward owned companies.

<http://www.martijnarets.com/>

Martin Van Den Borre

Agricultural technologist by training, it is in the post-civil war context of El Salvador that Martin entered the world of the social economy. He has since been participating in several collective endeavors at the local and international level. He worked a dozen years as a cooperative developer where he demonstrated a keen interest for projects that ventured off the beaten paths. For the last 18 months, he has been leading C.I.T.I.E.S. a knowledge and innovation transfer center on the social economy that facilitates cross-pollination processes between the cities of Seoul, Barcelona, Puebla, and Montreal. At the *Who Owns The World?*, Martin will present the protocolary cooperative Eva.coop.

<http://cities-ess.org/>

Maru Bautista

Maru Bautista is the Director of the Cooperative Development Program at the Center for Family Life in Brooklyn New York. For the past 6 years, she has worked with her team and the Sunset Park community to strengthen and scale immigrant-led worker cooperatives in New York City. Most notably, Maru has supported the development of the Brightly franchise and Up &Go. Maru has served on the Board of the US Federation

of Worker Cooperatives for the past 4 years, and has also served on the Board of the Democracy at Work Institute since 2016. Maru is originally from Puebla, Mexico. She moved to Brooklyn 8 years ago to pursue an M.A. in International Development from the New School. Loving all things cooperative, Maru's family is in a babysitting cooperative, she sends her 3-year old daughter to a worker-owned daycare, she is a member of a food cooperative, and has a car-sharing agreement with a friend. Maru is a firm believer in collaboration as the only path forward!

<https://sco.org/>

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.

www.newschool.edu

Matthew Cropp

Matt Cropp works as Co-Executive Director of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, a non-profit that promotes and fosters broad-based employee ownership primarily via the worker co-op and ESOP models. He cut his teeth in the co-op movement studying the origins of the credit union movement while getting his master’s in History, and is involved in a number of co-op movement roles, including chair of the Vermont Solidarity Investing Club, board president of Full Barrel co-op, and Community Operations Team Coordinator for social.coop. He lives in Burlington, Vermont.

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

McKenzie Jones

McKenzie Jones is an off-grid farmer

turned social scientist bringing a deep commitment to service and equity into her work with CoLab Cooperative. She received a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from The Pennsylvania State University and an MS in Design and Environmental Analysis from Cornell University. She has stewarded radical organizations such as the Center for Sustainability in State College, PA and Ithaca Biodiesel Cooperative in Ithaca, NY and has been a strong advocate for affordable housing while serving on the City of Ithaca Planning and Development Board for the past seven years. McKenzie is a founding member of the Aurora Pocket Neighborhood Cooperative, a co-owned, urban, intentional community that she still calls home with her two children. McKenzie is a manager with CoLab Cooperative and believes in worker ownership as a pathway out of oppressive economics toward a just working environment for all. McKenzie enjoys riding her homemade bike, going on road trips with her kids, and her band Strange Heavy.

<https://colab.coop/>

McKenzie Wark

McKenzie Wark is the author, among other things, of *A Hacker Manifesto* (Harvard 2004), *Gamer Theory* (Harvard 2007), *The Beach Beneath the Street* (Verso 2011) and *Molecular Red* (Verso 2015). She teaches at Eugene Lang College and The New School for Social Research, in New York City.

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

Melissa Hoover

Melissa Hoover is the founding Executive Director of the Democracy at Work Institute, the think-and-do-

tank that expands worker cooperatives as a strategy to address economic and racial inequality. A leader in the worker ownership movement for over fifteen years, Melissa helped start and grow the United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives, the national grassroots membership organization for worker-owned businesses. She was a cooperative business developer for many years with the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives in Oakland, doing business and capital planning for two startups, training cooperative members, and serving as CFO in the first year of each startup's operations. In 2018, Melissa was named an Executive Fellow of the Rutgers Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of The ICA Group/ Local Enterprise Assistance Fund, The Working World, and Safe Passages of Oakland, and serves as a strategic advisor to foundations, investors, nonprofits, local governments and other organizations that want to incorporate worker ownership into their economic development and community wealth-building programs. Originally from Kansas City, Melissa attended Stanford University on a full scholarship, earning a BA in History with a research focus on immigrant women's role building cooperative movements in the U.S.

<https://institute.coop/>

Michael McHugh

Michael McHugh is the Assistant Director of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium working primarily on the Platform Cooperative Development Kit, a new initiative homed at The New School working to develop cooperatives in the digital economy. From 2014 to 2018, he

was a full-time employee of The New School's Eugene Lang College and a part-time graduate student at The New School for Social Research. In May 2018, under the advisement of economist Richard D. Wolff and media theorist R. Trebor Scholz, he completed his master's degree and graduate thesis on worker cooperatives, focusing on how The New School could transition to a cooperative structure.

<http://www.publicseminar.org/2018/08/newschool-coop-envisioning-a-cooperative-university/>

Michele Kahane

Michele Kahane has more than 25 years of experience in the global business, nonprofit, and philanthropy sectors. Currently, she is the Associate Dean of Educational Innovation and Social Engagement and Professor of Professional Practice in Management at The New School's Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment. Her teaching and professional practice are focused on social entrepreneurship, social innovation and social investment. As Associate Dean, she is responsible for developing, resourcing and promoting new innovations in applied, field-based, and project-based learning in support of the graduate and undergraduate programs within the Schools of Public Engagement and across the university. She is also faculty director of The New School's Impact Entrepreneurship Initiative and Collaboratory. Prior to her faculty appointment at The New School, she worked in executive positions at the Clinton Global Initiative, the Ford Foundation and the Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College where she worked with companies, social entrepreneurs, and the public

sector to forge innovative market-based approaches to global development. Earlier she was a Vice President at Chemical Bank focused on corporate finance in emerging markets and started her career with Catholic Relief Services. She is co-author of the award-winning book *Untapped: Creating Value in Underserved Markets* (2006). Michele has served on a wide array of boards and advisory committees focused on education, philanthropy, impact investing, entrepreneurship and women's issues. She has been a founding board member of the Criterion Institute and one of the initial change leaders in the Ashoka U Changemaker Campus Consortium. Michele has an MBA and Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University.

[@KahaneM](#)

Micky Metts

Micky is involved in the "free software for community building" movement and the Platform Cooperativism movement. She helps Agaric's work contribute back to these movements. She also handles some administrative tasks, public outreach, and support as part of the team.

Micky is a worker/owner of Agaric and a member of the "free software for community building" movement – using tools like VOIP, Drupal, and GNU/Linux. She is liaison between the US Solidarity Economy Network (SEN) a group devoted to ongoing dialog on building the new economy network – and US Federation of Worker Cooperatives (USFWC), the national grassroots organization of 4,000 US worker-owners "building power with national and international partners to advance an agenda for economic justice rooted in community-based,

shared ownership." Working within organizations such as Ujima Boston, Resource Generation, CommonGood and The Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives, Micky enjoys raising awareness of free software, cooperative business models and local opportunities. As a member of MayFirst/PeopleLink Leadership Committee, Micky works with technical activists to connect people with the information and tools they need to move from being a global network to being a global movement based on solidarity. She grew up in Weston, CT and now lives in Boston, MA with her long-time partner John M. Crisman.

[@mickymetts](#)

Mike Cook

CEO of Stocksy United, a platform co-op created by and for artists. Michael brings his years in the stock industry at iStockphoto and Getty Images, flavored with start-up operational experience in another market, to Stocksy. His focus is on working with the incredible team at Stocksy to deliver exceptional products and services while living up to the principles and values that are the DNA of the company – dedication to the co-op ideals the company was founded upon, communication up and down, transparency in action, and responsibility for results.

Throughout Michael's career he has had success by working collaboratively with stakeholders in any given situation. He believes things are best done with input from all people required in the process: "Those people need to be heard from to ensure their ideas and concerns are contemplated and addressed. Doing so, ensures a smoother process, a successful result, and ultimately a stronger organization." This team-based

collaboration facilitates strategy based on organizational goals by determining the tactics needed to succeed and the plan required to implement across the entire organization. This can be easier said than done and having an ability to bridge silos and act as a form of glue (or oil as the case may be!) is something Michael brings to the table to assist in those efforts.

[@StocksyUnited](#)

Miles Hadfield

Miles Hadfield is the digital editor at Co-op News – the world’s oldest co-operative publication – where he has worked since 2010. A UK-based operation, Co-op News is a monthly magazine and website which provides coverage about, and for, the co-op movement around the world.

As the digital editor, Miles is helping Co-op News to develop its online presence and takes day-to-day responsibility for publishing articles to its website and promoting content on social media. Along with the rest of the Co-op News team, he takes a keen interest in platform co-ops, and in the more general digital issues affecting the co-op sector, which have been extensively covered by the magazine. Prior to joining Co-op News, he worked in the UK newspaper sector on a range of titles from local to national level, including editorial roles on the web team at Trinity Mirror.

[@coopnews](#)

Minsun Ji

Minsun is 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. She was the founder and long-time executive director of a worker

center in Denver, Colorado, El Centro Humanitario para los Trabajadores (Humanitarian Center for Workers), organizing immigrant day laborers and domestic workers. She was also a labor union organizer with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and was a labor activist in her native country, South Korea. She received her Ph.D. from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver and her special interests of research include international political economy, worker cooperatives, social movements, labor politics of different countries and solidarity economy.

<https://platform.coop>

Morshed Mannan

Morshed Mannan (1990) is a Ph.D. candidate attached to the Company Law Department of Leiden University. His Ph.D. research concerns cooperative and democratic business ownership in the platform economy. Morshed’s other research interests include the regulation and governance of emergent technologies (e.g. blockchain), comparative corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, freedom of establishment and international insolvency law. His two most recent peer-reviewed articles are “Fostering Worker Cooperatives with Blockchain Technology: Lessons from the Colony Project,” published by the Erasmus Law Review, and “Now the Code Runs Itself: On-Chain and Off-Chain Governance of Blockchain Technologies,” published by Topoi, an International Review of Philosophy. He also teaches international business law courses and comparative corporate governance and supervises theses at Bachelor and Masters level. Morshed is an alumnus of

the Advanced Masters in International Civil and Commercial Law program at Leiden University. Prior to his move to Leiden, he worked as a lawyer and lecturer in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has been enrolled as an Advocate by the Bangladesh Bar Council and was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2012.
<https://platform.coop>

Mundano

Mundano is a Brazilian street artist and activist whose work makes people stop and think about the issues swirling around them every day. In 2007, he began using his graffiti skills to paint “carroças,” the wooden and metal carts used by the trash collectors throughout Brazil who haul off junk and recyclables. He painted 200 carroças and in the process made these invisible superheroes visible—not only in the streets, but also in the media. The effort led to “Pimp My Carroça,” which made this initiative do-it-yourself, crowdfunded and global. It has brought in 170 trash collectors in cities around the world, teaming them up with 200 street artists and 800 volunteers. It is quickly becoming a movement. At home in Brazil, Mundano works on other projects too. Since 2008, he has used the posters and banners that plaster Brazilian cities during elections to create thought-provoking art. For the election in 2014, he turned these enormous plastic banners into a giant voting booth filled with waste in a square in Rio de Janeiro. “I use these ads to get people to reflect on the corrupted political system. On all the false promises, and all the awful waste,” he explains.

[@mundano_sp](#)

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. 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.

His articles have appeared in 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 weekly.

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](#)

Ned Zimmerman

Ned Zimmerman is a Senior Inclusive Developer at the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC). His work on the Platform Cooperative Development Kit is informed by experiences as a worker co-op member-owner (2007-2010), open source maintainer (2015-2019), and co-founder and board member of a non-profit arts co-op in his home province of Nova Scotia, Canada (2016-present).

Ned has a BFA in Theatre and Development from Concordia University in Montréal.

[@greatislander](#)

Nicole Alix

Nicole Alix is chairwoman of “La Coop des Communs,” which aims to build alliances between Social and Solidarity Economy and the Commons.

At HEC Business School, she has been involved for 15 years in Crédit Coopératif, a French cooperative bank for which she served as Director of Development. For 25 years, Nicole worked in social services of general interest in institutions such as DDG of UNIOPSS, focusing on social welfare and at DG of “Maisons Isatis,” which is comprised of a group of care institutions and homes for elderly persons. She has participated in several European and international networks, and established the French “Code of Conduct Committee for NGO fundraising.”

[@CoopdesCommuns](#)

Novita Puspasari

Novita Puspasari is a Lecturer 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, sits on the executive committee of the Indonesian Consortium for Co-operative Innovation (ICCI), and serves as a Research Coordinator at Kopkun Institute. She is also on 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.

<http://unsoed.ac.id/id/>

Nuria Soto

May 2017 Barcelona couriers from companies such as Deliveroo, Glovo or UberEats created the RidersXDerechos (Riders4Rights) union campaign to defend our rights. We have demonstrated and gone on strike against the situation of falsely self-employed workers. As a consequence, we have suffered dismissals, which we have already reported to the courts. Mensakas is an app for online ordering and home delivery. In April 2018 we created the Mensakas SCCL cooperative company. It is self-managed by its own workers. Everyone has an employment contract, not a false freelance contract, and therefore taxes and social security contributions are being paid. We offer an alternative model of consumption, one that allows people to consume in a socially responsible manner through their smartphone. The cooperative helps strengthen self-organization among riders so that they can continue struggling against precarious work, as well as providing a real experience of collectivization and economic sovereignty.

[@ridersxderechos](#)

Olivera Marjanovic

Professor Olivera Marjanovic (Ph.D.) is a former Deputy Director (2010 – 2015) and the Director (2015-2017) of the Cooperatives Research Group at

the University of Sydney – the leading multidisciplinary research group in the area of CMEs in Australia. Through her applied research and innovative teaching, Olivera seeks to link data and analytics, processes, human-centric services, knowledge and technology in innovative organizations, including cooperatives & mutuals (CMEs) and more recently digital platform cooperatives. Her current large research grants include an innovative industry-wide Visual Atlas of the Australian Cooperatives (an online platform for mapping and visual data exploration of the history of Cooperatives in Australia from the early 1900s to today) and a world-wide study of Digital Nomadism and new forms of digital working.
<https://sydney.edu.au/business/our-research/research-groups/co-operatives-research-group.html>

Oriol Alfambra Serrano

In May 2017 Barcelona couriers from companies such as Deliveroo, Glovo or UberEats created the RidersXDerechos (Riders4Rights) union campaign to defend our rights. We have demonstrated and gone on strike against the situation of falsely self-employed workers. As a consequence, we have suffered dismissals, which we have already reported to the courts. Mensakas is an app for online ordering and home delivery. In April 2018 we created the Mensakas SCCL cooperative company. It is self-managed by its own workers. Everyone has an employment contract, not false freelance contract, and therefore taxes and social security contributions are being paid. We offer an alternative model of consumption, one that allows people to consume in a socially responsible

manner through their smartphone. The cooperative helps strengthen self-organization among riders so that they can continue struggling against precarious work, as well as providing real experience of collectivization and economic sovereignty.
[@ridersxderechos](#)

Osamu Nakano

Osamu Nakano is the Director of International Relations at Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU), a position he has held since July 2017. He concurrently serves as a board member of JWCU. He is also working as an active staff of the Japan Co-operative Alliance (JCA), an apex organization of all cooperative sectors in Japan. He further serves as a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo, and an advisor of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy. Osamu is playing a key role in developing platform cooperative movements in Japan by connecting various stakeholders such as worker cooperatives, other cooperative sectors, labor unions, scholars/activists and so forth. He is an organizer of the symposium entitled "What is platform cooperativism?", which was held in Japan on September 21st 2019, and in which Trebor Scholz delivered a keynote speech, introducing the concept of "platform cooperativism" into Japan for the first time.
<https://jwcu.coop/en/2019/01/25/hello-world/>

Patrick M. Karanja

Patrick M Karanja is a program associate based at the Rockefeller's Foundation's Africa Regional Office in Nairobi. Reporting to the Managing Director, he supports the Digital Jobs Africa

(DJA), an initiative that seeks to catalyze new and sustainable employment opportunities for young people in Africa. His role provides the vital link between the work, the partners, and the Foundation. He also provides key support to the developing work on energy in Africa. Prior to joining The Rockefeller Foundation, he was the Regional Business Engagement Manager at World Vision's Eastern African Regional Office, responsible for the development and effective implementation of strategies to drive the effectiveness of offices across 9 countries Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan. With a diverse staff and a very dynamic environment, he also led ICT4D interventions that utilized the ubiquitous nature of technology to complement development outcomes in health (use of mobile phones to support Maternal Child Health) and in economic opportunities. In this latter role, he successfully initiated and spearheaded an Impact Sourcing center in Ghana under the support of World Vision Ghana.

[@mutuota](#)

Ra Criscitiello

Ra Criscitiello is Deputy Director of Research at SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West in Oakland, California, a labor union of nearly 100,000 healthcare workers. Her work focuses on the intersection of organized labor and worker cooperatives, and she has helped build several innovative employment models that collectivize the employment status of unionized workers on scale. Her most recent project seizes upon the opportunity in California created by the

Dynamex decision and AB5. In the new worker-driven democratic landscape, her model allows for on-demand labor without compromising traditional union values or worker control. 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.

[@seiu_uhw](#)

Rafael Zanatta

Rafael Zanatta is a Brazilian activist and lawyer. He is one of the leading voices in the movement of digital rights in Brazil and helped in the enactment of the Brazilian General Data Protection Law. In 2016, together with other activists, he co-founded the Coalition "Direitos na Rede", a network of think tanks, NGOs and research centers. Zanatta is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of São Paulo, where he founded the Center of Ethics, Technology and Digital Economies with Prof. Ricardo Abramovay. He translated Trebor Scholz' book "Platform Cooperativism" into Portuguese and organized the book "Sharing Economies and the Law." He holds an LL.M in Law and Political Economy at the University of Turin and a Master of Science at the University of São Paulo Faculty of Law. He is a member of the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (Lavits).

[@rafa_zanatta](#)

Raz Godelnik

Raz Godelnik is an Assistant Professor of Strategic Design and Management at Parsons School of Design – The New School in New York. His research explores connections between innovation, sustainability, business and design strategies. Currently, he is involved in projects focusing on developing sustainable business models, design for the climate crisis, and redefining sustainability in business. He is also leading a collaboration between Parsons students and refugees, working together on entrepreneurial initiatives to address refugee needs in cities and refugee camps.

Raz is the co-founder of two green startups – Hemper Jeans and Eco-Libris and has been writing on issues related to sustainable business, climate change and strategic design.

[@godelnik](#)

Rebecca Lurie

Rebecca Lurie is the founder of the Community and Worker Ownership Project at the City University of NY School for Labor and Urban Studies and the Murphy Institute where she also serves as faculty in the Urban Studies Department. She is a founding member of the worker-owned cooperative, New Deal Home Improvement Company. She began her working career as a union carpenter and transitioned into worker education through the union's apprenticeship program and the construction industry. Using a sector approach for understanding industries and businesses and their employment needs, she has remained dedicated to inclusive community economic development. Rebecca has collaborated on numerous

initiatives in NYC, including pre-apprenticeship programs, a Bronx green jobs network, a kitchen business incubator and the design of Best for NYC. She serves on the boards of the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative and Democracy at Work Institute. She is Trustee Emerita with the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. She holds a Master's in Organizational Change Management from The New School, a certificate in Adult Occupational Education from CUNY and is certified in Permaculture Urban Design. She is a native New Yorker raised with the spirit and passion of dedication to social justice.

[@rebecca_lurie](#)

Riccardo Carboni

Riccardo Carboni is the president of Cotabo, one of the leading taxi driver cooperatives in Italy.

Cotabo was founded in 1967 and since then has provided services to more than 500 taxi driver associates, with the aim to improve their working conditions.

The taxi drivers are the real Cotabo owners. Cotabo is eco-friendly: 48% of the fleet are low emissions cars and the headquarters are located in a Class A building.

Carboni is also part of the Legacoop Bologna board of presidents.

Legacoop Bologna has more than 2 million members and represents about 200 different cooperatives, providing job opportunities to more than 70,000 people. Carboni has also taken an active part in negotiating taxi reforms with the Government. Carboni is also a founder of Apttaxi, a 19-radio taxi network with more than 5000 taxi drivers.

<http://www.cotabo.it>

Rich Jensen

Rich Jensen is the Global Navigator and Co-op Executive for Resonate Co-op, an international fair-trade music streaming cooperative where artists, listeners, curators, and developers govern the platform as voting members. A former artist and label executive, he brings decades of experience with decentralized, interdependent, cross-cultural collaborations occasionally embraced by global markets and popular culture. Origins: KAOS-fm, K Records, Sub Pop, Up Records, Cabin Games.
[@resonatecoop](#)

Rob Stone

Rob Stone is Founder and CEO of Datavest where he leads the development of the world's first Data Investment Platform, which offers individuals the ability to turn their personal data into a personal (and investable) capital-asset. Prior to Datavest, he served as a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley where the focus of his efforts centered upon increasing the availability of ESG, SRI and impact investment opportunities to both the firm's individual and institutional clients. Rob previously co-founded the creation of a nonprofit microfinance institution (MFI) in Argentina in collaboration with Pepperdine University that continues to offer interest-free lending opportunities to entrepreneurs who lack affordable access to capital. Rob is a frequent speaker at leading industry conferences and venues; including the Aspen Institute, Know Identity, Draper University, Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, as well as the PCC conference held in Hong Kong in 2018. Rob received his MPP from the McCourt School of Public Policy at

Georgetown University. He is a proud member of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium Circle of Cooperators and holds the view that those who currently own the data, own the platforms, that own the world.

[@robnstone](#)

Ron Kim

Assemblymember Ron Kim represents the 40th district of the New York State Assembly. Elected in 2012, Kim's public policy solutions have gained national attention and garnered him the reputation as a key thought-leader in the economic development policy space. Most notably, Assemblymember Kim was the first public official to lead the opposition against Amazon HQ2. His policy stance led to a larger discussion around corporate subsidies, economic development, and the rate of return of these investments. Since then, Assemblymember Kim catalyzed a nationwide inter-state compact, with nearly 20 state representatives, who legislatively agree to end the "race to the bottom" competition designed to lure mega-corporations into their states. His latest legislative initiative, The Inclusive Value Ledger (IVL), is a transformational new savings and payments platform that will massively accelerate value creation, reward undervalued work – carework, and steadily grow the health and wealth of New York State citizens, businesses, and communities. The digital technology that undergirds the IVL enables New Yorkers to generate, capture, and exchange value that has gone untapped for centuries.

[@rontkim](#)

Sabine Kock

Dr. Sabine Kock is founder and manager of the smart coop, Austria. As a cultural researcher, she works on new solutions for the future of work and social security. She is also a philosopher who focuses on the research fields of aesthetics, discourse of remembrance, gender & diversity.

www.smart.coop

Salonie Hiriya Muralidhara

Salonie works as a Senior Associate at SEWA Cooperative Federation. The Federation works as an accelerator, providing support services to women's cooperatives and collectives, including digital inclusion. Salonie has been working on developing ways to sustainably include informal women workers in the digital space. She works with partners like the ILO, IDRC, the Platform Cooperativism Consortium, IT for Change and others to develop these service platforms for women workers. In the past, Salonie has worked in the research department of the ILO in Geneva. She graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science, with a degree in gender and development.

<https://www.sewafederation.org/>

Sandeep Vaheesan

Sandeep Vaheesan is legal director at the Open Markets Institute. Vaheesan previously served as a regulations counsel at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where he helped develop and draft the first comprehensive federal rule on payday, vehicle title, and high-cost installment loans. Vaheesan has published articles and essays on a variety of topics in antitrust law, including the relationship between antitrust and workers and the political content of antitrust. His writing has appeared in the Berkeley Business

Law Journal, Harvard Law & Policy Review, Nebraska Law Review, University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law, and Yale Law Journal Forum. He received a B.A. from the University of Maryland and a J.D. and M.A. from Duke University.

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

Sandrino Graceffa

Sandrino Graceffa is the CEO of the european cooperative Smart.coop. He has been managing businesses in the social economy in France and Belgium since 1991. In 2008, he initiated Smart in France. Since 2014, he has managed the European group Smart in Brussels, Belgium. Smart is a European cooperative of self-employed workers (i.e. freelancers) from all backgrounds and offers a set of shared services (legal, financial, administrative, training, economic support, shared workspaces), thereby enabling them to develop their professional activities in complete autonomy. The status of entrepreneur-employee within the Smart shared structure makes it possible to reconcile social protection with a true entrepreneurial dynamic. Smart is present in 40 cities in 9 different European countries. By 2018 it had a turnover of nearly 200 millions euros supporting more than 120.000 workers in Europe since its creation. Sandrino Graceffa is also a recognized speaker on developments in the world of work and social protection. He is an Ashoka Fellow and is the author of the 2016 book titled, Reinvent the World of Work: An Alternative to the Uberization of the Economy.

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

Simon Pek

Simon Pek works as an Assistant Professor of Sustainability and Organization Theory at the Gustavson School of Business at

the University of Victoria. He teaches and researches in the area of sustainability and organization theory. His primary research explores how organizations and the individuals within them embed social and environmental sustainability into their cultures, strategies, and daily operations. He is particularly interested in novel forms of democratizing organizations and platforms by drawing on concepts including deliberative democracy and sortition. He is very excited to attend this conference, and is particularly excited to connect with any practitioners and academics working in this space and interested in collaborating.

[@SimonPekProf](#)

Sixth Street Youth Program

Sixth Street Youth Program is a dynamic after school program that offers New York City youth (ages 5 and up!) quality after school workshops in an intimate class setting. With a limited enrollment of up to 30 students per day and an average staff to student ratio of 1:5, each child receives thoughtful guidance and support that is needed to foster their individual and creative growth. Our program is committed to developing strong community, expressive creative skills, mindfulness, and social and environmental awareness and activism among our youth. Our mission is to cultivate a warm and inclusive atmosphere that honors each student's unique strengths. Sixth Street Youth Program has quality enrichment in the arts, urban gardening, urban sustainability, and community activism. From the start, we teach the kids about the history of the Lower East Side, housing rights, food justice, and climate justice! We creatively engage them through kid-led, inquiry-based projects with local businesses and

organizations. The curriculum is centered around empowering young people to be change-makers in their communities. We teach urban sustainability and food justice through experiential education at 5th Street Rooftop Farm. During afterschool, we go to the garden weekly and during the summer we are the primary caretakers of the garden! This year our youth program took on a big challenge, working to become the first zero-waste after school in the Lower East Side.

[@6thstreetcenter](#)

Stacco Troncoso

Stacco Troncoso teaches and writes on the Commons, P2P politics and economics, open culture, post-growth futures, Platform and Open Cooperativism, decentralized governance, blockchain and more as part of the P2P Foundation, Commons Transition, and Guerrilla Media Collective.

[@StaccoP2P](#)

Stefania de Kenessey

Composer Stefania de Kenessey's opera adaptation of Tom Wolfe's best-selling novel "Bonfire of the Vanities" ([bonfiretheopera.com](#)) premiered in New York City in 2015 to considerable acclaim: "melodically ingratiating...skillfully wrought...caustically witty" (Financial Times); "unlike a lot of contemporary opera, tuneful and grateful to the voice" (The Observer). A darkly funny political satire, updated to contemporary concerns, the music now concludes with the collapse of the Stock Exchange, firm after firm crumbling on Wall Street... De Kenessey's music has been performed extensively in venues both traditional and off-the-beaten path, ranging from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to LaMama and Joe's Pub. Premieres in 2018-2019 featured her

(mostly) humorous cabaret songbook, *The Well-Tempered Woman*, for which she wrote both music and lyrics, as well as SHE, her first purely electronic score for Ariel Rivka Dance. Stefania composed an anthem for platform cooperativism. <http://www.stefaniadekenessey.com/>

Sujatha Jesudason

Sujatha Jesudason, Ph.D., has worked as an activist, organizer and scholar for over 25 years in a range of social justice movements. She is a leading voice on new practices in movement building, the ethics of reproductive genetics, gender justice, disability rights and racial inclusion. In her work, she focuses on forging unlikely collaborations and looking past forced simplifications at the intersection of issues too often considered separately: economic inequality, domestic violence, racial discrimination, disability rights, and gender roles. Sujatha has worked skillfully with a wide and diverse range of leaders, community members, activists, scholars, researchers, and academics, listening for patterns and trends in order to prepare for the challenges around the corner and into the future. Before *The New School*, Sujatha was the Executive Director of *CoreAlign*, a reproductive justice organization teaching innovation for social change to frontline activists, which she founded in 2012. With a focus on race and power, *CoreAlign* trains organizers to think and act innovatively, generate creative solutions to complex problems and develop processes for designing solutions with their communities. As Professor of Professional Practice in Management at the *Milano School*, Sujatha focuses on innovative approaches to: social justice and start-up nonprofit leadership and management; leadership, management

and philanthropy at the intersection of race and gender; social justice ethics of human genetics and biotechnologies; design thinking methodologies for community engagement, advocacy and organizing; and reimagining social movements.

[@SujathaMusings](#)

Sylvia Morse

Sylvia Morse is the Project Coordinator in CFL's Cooperative Development Program, where she is helping to implement initiatives to scale immigrant worker-owned cooperative businesses in New York City and nationally.

Since September 2016, she has focused her time on the development of *Up & Go*, a web app for booking home services from worker cooperatives.

Prior to joining CFL, Sylvia worked in housing policy and participatory planning. Sylvia is a lifelong New Yorker, and earned her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the City University of New York Hunter College. Sylvia Morse is the Project Manager in CFL's Cooperative Development Program, where she is helping to implement initiatives to scale immigrant worker-owned cooperative businesses in New York City and nationally. Since September 2016, she has focused her time on the development of *Up & Go*, a web app for booking home services from worker cooperatives.

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Prior to joining CFL, Sylvia worked in housing policy and participatory planning. Sylvia is a lifelong New Yorker, and earned her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the City University of New York Hunter College.

[@UpandGoNYC](#)

The New School Hip Hop Collective

The New School Hip Hop Collective explores and engages with all elements of Hip Hop culture and community with a focus on social activism, student-led ciphers spanning music creation and critical conversation, and connecting and transforming communities through the art form. We host weekly jam sessions, social gatherings, and educational experiences in relation to all elements of Hip-Hop (Rapping, Breaking, Graffiti, DJing, Beatboxing, Archiving). We strive to involve students across the colleges at The New School, build with other like-minded organizations and individuals and create and maintain safe, inclusive, creative spaces for expression. At WHO OWNS THE WORLD?, The New School Hip Hop Collective invites you to come and dance, dance, dance.

https://www.instagram.com/hhc_tns/

Tim Marshall

Tim became provost in March 2009. As dean of Parsons School of Design from 2006 to 2009, he led a major restructuring effort and developed an academic plan that emphasized stronger faculty culture and a more integrated and comprehensive suite of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

He came to Parsons in 2004 as associate dean for Academic Affairs. He holds a faculty appointment as a tenured associate professor. Previously he was director of academic and international programs and chair of the School of Design at the University of Western Sydney, where he held a range of academic leadership positions over 14 years. He has written, lectured, and consulted internationally on design research and design education. He co-edited *Design Dictionary: Perspectives in Design*. Educated at the City Art Institute of Australia and the University of New South Wales, Tim has a background in photography and fine arts.

www.newschool.edu

Tina Vu Pham

Tina brought with her over ten years of organizing experience with immigrant communities and unions in Washington D.C. and New York before unions and immigrant communities before becoming NDWA's gig economy organizer. As the gig economy organizer, she is working to understand and improve the working conditions of care and cleaning workers in the gig economy through research, organizing, and advocacy. Her goal is to reach the many domestic workers that are moving to online platforms to find "gig" jobs and to build community and power.

[@tinavupham](#)

Travis F. Higgins

Systems engineer with 14 years of experience delivering substantial improvements in over 30 organizations (large, small, public, private, non-profit and cooperative) in 14 countries. Passionate about using business as a force for good and promoting people & planet over profit. Founded a Zero Waste

network in Brazil's 3rd largest metro area and studied Strategic Management of Cooperatives at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais. Currently serving as an adviser to Coonecta (a Brazilian hub for cooperative innovation) and as Global Survey Project Lead for the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy.

[@platformcoop](#)

Trebor Scholz

Trebor Scholz is a scholar-activist and founding director of the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School in New York City. In 2014, he introduced the concept of "platform cooperativism" as a way of bringing the co-op model into the digital economy. Who Owns the World? brings together the global community around this work and marks ten years of the influential digital labor conferences at The New School. Scholz' books include Uber-Worked and Underpaid. How Workers Are Disrupting the Digital Economy, Digital Labor: The Internet as Playground and Factory, and the co-edited Ours to Hack and to Own: Platform Cooperativism. A New Vision for the Future of Work and a Fairer Internet. Scholz' articles and ideas have appeared in The Nation, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Washington Post, Le Monde, and The New York Times, among many other publications. Today, Prof. Scholz is working to advance the cooperative digital economy through the Platform Co-op Development Kit while also keynoting conferences worldwide. He presented at the Harvard Law Forum and is currently an Open Society Fellow. [@trebors](#)

Txiki Blasi

Txiki is a member of the Riders X Derechos union that was born in 2017 from the fight for labor rights against Glovo and Deliveroo in Barcelona. From that fight, Mensakas was born, a cooperative project that he has been a part of since December 2018 as a member and worker. He currently performs the function of governance of the cooperative and at the same time cover delivery tasks. He loves working in friendly environments and he considers myself a privileged dreamer to be part of this project with his colleagues. <https://www.mensakas.com/>

Una Lee

Una Lee is a Vermont-based design practitioner, collaborative design facilitator, and community organizer. Through her practice and organizing work, she attempts to use design to build the world we need, while also pushing the design field to be accountable for its impact on the world we live in. Una is the creative director of the co-design studio And Also Too and design director at Allied Media Projects. She founded the Consentful Tech Project, and is a co-founder and steering committee member of the international Design Justice Network. She has been a visiting designer at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, a fellow at UC Berkeley's Center for Technology, Society, and Policy, and is a recipient of a Royal Society of Arts award. [@lovexjustice](#)

Vanni Rinaldi

Cooperator by choice and innovator by-election, he was also a journalist and publisher. He founded several companies in the world of communication, internet

and Big Data. He is now President of the digital start-up Hoda. The company launched the App- Weople, that is the first People's Data Bank that act as a People Aggregator on the basis of the EU-GDPR. He is also President of Cooptech that is an incubator dedicated to the technological innovation of the Italian cooperatives, that has carried out various projects in the internet and telecommunications sectors, including CoopVoce: the first Italian virtual cooperative mobile operator. He contributed in 2013 to launch the "Cooperative Commons" Manifesto for a conscious and democratic use of digital technologies. At present, he is in charge of the Legacoop's programs for innovation technology. Recently wrote the book: From the Co-op to the Co-app: for an ethical sharing of Big Data.

[@weople_it](#)

Victoria Alexander

Victoria is a philosopher of science/ biology, specializing in complex systems and self-organization and is a leader in the newly developing field of biosemiotics. She studied at CUNY Grad Center and the Santa Fe Institute and is a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center alum, former Public Scholar with the NY Council for the Humanities and currently a Fulbright Scholar, soon to be conducting research in biological computation at ITMO University in St Petersburg Russia. In two words, her work is focused on decentralized intelligence. She is also a literary fiction novelist. Her latest, *Locus Amoenus* (2015), was a Dayton Literary Peace Prize nominee. She is interested in using her understanding of self-organization to design and implement a self-organizing publishing co-operative, specifically for literary fiction.

Vitor Romero Moulin Teixeira

Vitor is an economist with an MBA in Business Management and Business Intelligence from Fundação Getúlio Vargas, International Business Executive from the University of California, Irvine. He has been active in the energy sector for over 10 years and he is dedicated to the "shared energy generation" market. CEO of an Energy CleanTech CleanClic, whose mission is to democratize or access clean and renewable energy in Brazil. He is also the founder of the YouTube channel "Compartilhando Energia", which is also shown by TV Ambiental, an open TV channel. He provides qualified and technical information on the concept of shared energy generation and the electricity sector for more people who can sustainably generate their own energy.

William Clark

William Clark is a native of Virginia and was educated in the United States, France, and England. Moving to New York in 1992, he worked at several agencies, including Virginia Barber Literary Agency and William Morris Agency, before founding the agency in 1999. He is a member of the Association of Authors' Representatives Board of Directors and is the board liaison to the Media and Digital Innovations Committee. He is a longtime Buddhist practitioner.

<https://www.wmclark.com/>

Wilma B. Liebman

President Obama named Wilma Liebman to be Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board in January 2009. She served as Chairman until August 27, 2011, when her third term expired. Since then, she has been engaged in various advisory roles and consulting projects

and has taught at several universities, most recently New York University Law School.

Ms. Liebman was first appointed to be a Member of the NLRB by President Clinton and was twice reappointed by President Bush. Earlier, she served as Deputy Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) and held positions as Labor Counsel for the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen, and Legal Counsel to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. She holds an A.B. degree from Barnard College, and a J.D. from George Washington University Law School. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Policy Institute and a senior fellow of the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing at Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations. She is the Co-Chair of the Council of Advisors at the Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy at The New School.

Yeshimabeit Milner

Yeshimabeit Milner is the Founder & Executive Director of Data for Black Lives. She has worked since she was 17 behind the scenes as a movement builder, technologist and data scientist on a number of campaigns. She started Data for Black Lives because for too long she straddled the worlds of data and organizing and was determined to break down the silos to harness the power of data to make change in the lives of Black people. In two years, Data for Black Lives has raised over \$2 million, hosted two sold-out conferences at the MIT Media Lab and has changed the conversation around big data & technology across the US and globally.

As the founder of Data for Black Lives, her work has received much acclaim.

Yeshimabeit is an Echoing Green Black Male Achievement Fellow and joins the founders of Black Lives Matter and Occupy Wall Street in the distinguished inaugural class of Roddenberry Foundation Fellows. Yeshimabeit has a BA from Brown University and serves on the board of the historic Highlander Center for Research & Education
[@Data4BlackLives](#)

Yvon Jadoul

Yvon Jadoul is the General Secretary of the European Smart Cooperative. After a career of nearly 10 years in ministerial offices in Belgium as a public policy advisor in various fields (employment, economy, and housing), he joined Smart in 2018 as political advisor to the CEO, Sandrino Graceffa. His role has quickly evolved and today he manages a team that implements functions related to political lobbying, communication, international development and the animation of the company's cooperative life. Smart is a European cooperative of self-employed workers (who can also be called 'freelancers') from all backgrounds and offers a set of shared services (legal, financial, administrative, training, economic support, shared workspaces), enabling them to develop their professional activities in complete autonomy. The status of entrepreneur-employee within the Smart shared structure makes it possible to reconcile social protection with a true entrepreneurial dynamic.

[@SmartBe_fr](#)

Music at the Conference

We asked Prof. Daniel Blake and his Music for Political Action course at The New School to select and research the history of songs that relate to our event. We will play the songs throughout the days of the conference. You will find descriptions of these songs, researched and written by his students, after the biographies at the end of this program. We send our heartfelt appreciation to the students in this course: Emma Brown, Martin Cruz Echeverri, Samantha Dilenschneider, Kayla Donald, Reese Fong, Cristy Garcia, Sofia Garcia, Avery Kaplan, Lexi Lane, Emily Leontyev, Kasper Meacham, Kebron Mihrete, Kayla Anne Santos, Lilah Smith, Anaka Steinmetz, Ryan Webb, and Ayla Weissman.

Thank You

A very special thank you to Prof. Stefania de Kenessey and vocalists Lisa Daehlin (soprano) and Waundell Saavedra (bass) for their live rendition of the platform co-op anthem! In addition, we'd like to thank our wonderful team of student volunteers who helped make this conference possible! Many thanks to Hal Plotkin for his indefatigable support.

Learn About the Songs You're Hearing Throughout the Event

Tudo que você podia ser

by Clube da Esquina

Brazilian singer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist Milton Nascimento was known as the voice of his generation. His beautifully haunting vocals express a deep spirituality that is essential to his unique style. Milton and his childhood friends including Lô Borges would play music on the street in their home state of Minas Gerais. Eventually they created a collective known as Clube da Esquina (the Corner Club). While military leaders and politicians planned to overthrow the João "Jango" Goulart government, this collective of musicians came together on the street corners of Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais. The collective released two albums in the 1970s. The collective created emblematic expressions pertinent to the social and political concerns of the Brazilian audience, specifically to galvanize the youth. "Tudo que você podia ser," ("All that you could be"), the opening track of Clube da Esquina, speaks to the sense of authoritarian social oppression. Clube da Esquina imagined forms of democracy and desire, not only to cope with the political reality, but to inspire imagination that could eventually translate into a new reality.

https://youtu.be/pn_xs6EIG4E

(Researched and written by Kayla Donald, The New School)

Glory to Hong Kong

The people of Hong Kong face the threat of a permanent change to their way of life. China is Hong Kong's only border country and has long intended to control the region. Since 2014, the umbrella movement has fought to maintain the democratic independence and social freedoms of Hong Kong. In 2019, the conflict escalated when the Chinese Government passed a bill that allows the extradition of Hong Kongers to mainland China. Millions of Hong Kongers protested every weekend to show their discontent with this bill and more broadly the Chinese Authoritarian Regime. Due to the militarization of the police, protestors have been forced to engage in isolated violent acts. Some of them led to bloodshed. A strategy recently used to divert the protests away from violence has been song. The people of Hong Kong have used music to draw strength and unify their movement. An anthem for Hong Kong did not previously exist but Glory to Hong Kong was created amidst the protests. The anthem circulated on the Internet and has quickly become a worldwide symbol for Hong Kong's fight for independence. The Hong Kong Anthem does not have any composer specifically associated with the song which reflects the nature of the umbrella movement as a whole. Leaders of the movement have chosen to remain anonymous and members wore masks to conceal their identities. The leaderless composition of the Hong Kong anthem protest movement displays the selflessness and unity of their fight for freedom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQDUjVOZBgk>

(Researched and written by Reese Fong, The New School)

**“El cinismo de los poderosos”
 (“The Cynicism of the Powerful”)**

by Pablo Cabrera (Cooparte)

Pablo Cabrera inspires audiences to open their hearts and ears to traditional sounds of Uruguayan folkloric music. Pablo Cabrera is a founding member of Cooparte, a collective composed of local musicians located in Montevideo, Uruguay. Also known as Cooperativa de las Artes del Uruguay, Cooparte is a collective composed of local musicians working to share social and political issues through music and poetry. Pablo Cabrera presents an acoustic, raw and folkloric-styled musical product. In response to Mexican singer Gabino Palomares’ song “La Letanía de los Poderosos”, Cabrera offers his audience “El Cinismo de los Poderosos.” Translating to, “The Cynicism of the Powerful,” the song criticizes the uneven distribution of power and wealth. In his lyrics, Cabrera notes the hypocrisy and evil of the powerful. They “smile with sweetness when [the poor] come to their side; [but then they] tell them with tenderness that they will never give them what is theirs.” This message is applicable on a global socio-economic perspective as the greed he refers to unfortunately is not exclusive to Uruguay. Alongside Cooparte collaborators, Cabrera presents this piece other musical works of his work in free, public and local settings; Seeking to encourage this questioning of environment amongst their audiences.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOinbzHp3ZA>

(Researched and written by Sofia Garcia, The New School)

Zombie

by Fela Kuti

The iconic Fela Kuti was an incredible musician and political activist from the 1960s through the 1990s, who used his talents to rebel against Nigeria's fascist government. Born in Abeokuta, Nigeria, Fela birthed a sonic style to what we now know today as afrobeat. Fusing blues, jazz, funk, salsa, and calypso with traditional Nigerian Yourba music, Fela Kuti and his band became a powerful channel for social change, vocalizing issues of the disadvantaged, unemployed, and oppressed. Known for his lengthy songs, his records are sung in a broken English, Pidgin, keeping close connections with his audience across Africa. All of his actions were highly political and his lyrics spoke directly to the problems caused by the military government in Nigeria. Fela Kuti, who was also a saxophonist and pianist, was hated by the military government, which arrested him nearly 200 times. Overcoming many military threats, his radical resistance widely exposed the corrupt political system. Songs like "Zombie" relayed the truth about soldiers who had died obeying the orders of the regime. Producing over 50 albums, Fela ran a recording studio out of a communal shack in Lagos, Nigeria, where members of his large band would also call home. Constantly pushing through social and political barriers, Fela strived by any means necessary to keep the fight for change active. Fela passed away from AIDs at age 58, his son Femi Kuti now takes leadership in their everlasting band, now known as The Positive Force.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj5x6pbJMyU>

(Researched and written by Kebron Mihrete, The New School)

"Amor a mi clase"
("Love to my class")

by Pipe Diaz (La Insurgencia)

The Spanish rapper Pipe Diaz is part of La Insurgencia: an amateur collective of rappers. Pipe Diaz, together with 12 other members of La Insurgencia, was sentenced in 2016 to 2 years and 1 day of prison, accused by the Spanish government of inciting violence and supporting terrorist groups. Diaz's lyrics are revolutionary, inviting people to fight against the capitalist system and oligarchy, but the main message of his lyrics is a call for the proletariat to take action and start a revolution to lose the chains of capitalism, even if it is necessary to take up arms. At the same time, he supports labor unions and movements for more representation of the proletariat. In his song: Amor a mi clase ("Love to my class"), he professed his love to the working class that is living with precarious wages. The song is Pipe Diaz' call to start a Socialist Revolution and destroy the system for a better life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7axXkSWXdY>

(Researched and written by Martin Cruz Echeverri, The New School)

**“Latinoamérica”
 (“Latin America”)**

by Calle 13

A popular hip hop group from Puerto Rico, Calle 13 was primarily composed of step brothers Rene Perez Joglar and Eduardo Jose Cabra Martinez. They shot to fame after releasing a rap video denouncing FBI’s assassination of Puerto Rican independentista Filiberto Ojedo Rios. Using an amalgam of Latin and indigenous music, they aimed to rap about “everything that surrounds us - political, social and sexual”. “Latinoamerica” was inspired by a trip the step brothers took across the continent. An acutely political song, they present an imaginary along the lines of Hugo Chavez’s ‘Bolivarian Revolution’: pointing to the diversity of Latin American lives and their deep interconnectedness as ‘one people’ at the same time. They reflect on the socio-political themes of Latin American history: particularly criticizing the influence of U.S. there, while emphasizing the collective strength of marginalized voices in the region. It seeks to be an anthem for Latin Americans contra Western imperialism and colonization.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA2FAVRAO2Y>

(Researched and written by Aman Manish Bardia, The New School)

ABOUT OUR WORK

Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC)

The Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC) at The New School is a hub for co-ops that make the digital transition. Rather than supporting cooperatives individually, the PCC identifies the systemic needs of hundreds of digital cooperatives, including platform co-ops, with tens of thousands of worker-owners around the world. PCC advances research and supports the building of shared digital infrastructure that helps this sector to grow.

The PCC convenes a large annual conference, which has reached at least 8,000 visitors in person and 200,000 unique viewers in 30 countries through live streaming. For a list of members of the PCC Circle of Cooperators, please see page 2 in this program.

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.

The Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy:

Where, when, and how work is done is changing. Advances in artificial intelligence, automation, and data processing continue to shift responsibilities from workers to digital systems. These disruptions are often unpredictable and still unfolding. To navigate these challenges, we need research that imagines, builds, and explores new visions of a fairer future of work. One starting point is the platform co-op model, which carries the cooperative principles into the digital economy. Platform cooperativism addresses the root causes of systemic inequality and presents a near-term solution for the problems plaguing our economy and democracy.

The cooperative digital economy is an under-researched area in the fields of anthropology, political science, sociology, history, and economics. This emerging field is closely linked with labor studies and cooperative studies. In business schools, this field of study is situated in the areas of finance, entrepreneurship, and organizational studies. In law schools, the pertinent areas are governance and corporate structure.

Acknowledging these research gaps, it is the purpose of the Institute to provide prospective and existing platform co-ops with applied and theoretical knowledge, education, and policy analysis.

The Institute for the Cooperative Digital Economy is committed to realizing new visions for a fairer future of work grounded in relevant research, driven by imaginative proposals.

We are committed to realizing new visions for a fairer future of work grounded in relevant research, driven by imaginative proposals. Initial research questions focus on distributed governance, scaling, marketing, and start-up funding. The ICDE makes this knowledge accessible to diverse audiences in innovative formats. Through rigorous research, the Institute builds a novel field of research relevant for workers and all implicated by the digital economy alike.

Activities 2019/2020

- Research Fellowship Program
- Annual conferences
- Work with affiliated faculty and student fellows across The New School

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