



## Special Session Proposal

### Digital platforms, servitisation and local labour markets

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#### Abstract

The radical technological transformations that have been affecting businesses and society in the last few years have reignited the debate on the labour market consequences of the adoption of the new technologies, which are expected to affect jobs quantitatively and qualitatively (Brynjolfsson and McAfee, 2014; Frey and Osborne, 2017).

Not only the displacement of workers can expand unemployment, up to pushing many out of the labour force. More importantly, job losses come together with an increasing redesign of the typology of jobs, frequently towards precarious, instant, service occupations, also known in the public debate and in the press as gig jobs (Autor and Dorn, 2013). The casualization of jobs, the deterioration of contract conditions and, in general, the increasing precariousness of work, frequently associated with the operation of digital platforms, are a likely consequence of the widespread diffusion of the new technologies (Rullani and Rullani, 2018). Moreover, the creation of gig-jobs goes in tandem with the creation of élite, high-skill ones, with a final mix likely in favour of gig-jobs compared to élite jobs (Autor and Dorn, 2013). All this can produce a generalised process of polarisation if not deskilling of the labour force and exacerbates a likely increase in wage inequalities among workers.

This special session aims at promoting the scientific debate on these important trends and welcomes conceptual and empirical papers addressing open issues such as:

- Are the polarization trends detected in the past technological revolution characterizing also the present technological transformations?
- Under what regional conditions will the creation of gig jobs take place the most?

- Is deskilling a generalized consequence of the adoption of the new technologies?
- Can the creation of elite jobs mitigate the generalised compression of the labour share in total value added?
- What kind of digital economies reinforce or mitigate the polarisation processes in the local labour market?

Given the strong content relation to the congress theme, ERSA 2022 represents an ideal setting to broaden knowledge and bring fresh evidence on the topics addressed by this special session.

## References

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