

SYLLABUS

Master Seminar

„Platforms and the gig economy – Implications for organizations and management“

Winter term 2021/22

Dr. Kerstin Rego

Concept

In recent years, platforms such as Lieferando, Uber, Mechanical Turk or UpWork spread, and are potentially already a (normal?) part of our daily live. In this context, new forms of work, such as ‘gig work’ or ‘click work’, arise. However, these phenomena gain increasing academic attention as well. From the perspective of organization studies, the following questions are of particular interest:

- How can we characterize platforms? Is it a new form of coordination, next to the market, organizations and networks?
- How can we characterize gig work and click work? How far are these ‘different’ or new forms of work?

Despite these more basic questions, we will consider some of the technical and social particularities of these forms of organizing and working, such as the role of algorithms inherent to the platform, of ratings and control by clients, or of (im)possibilities to organize the employees’ interests. In addition, we will discuss some of the challenges and possibilities which management, human resource management and workers themselves face.

We will approach these questions and topics on the basis of relevant scientific literature. The aim of the seminar is to gain a first deepened, differentiated and critical insight into the subject area and to encourage independent further study of the topic.

The maximum number of participants is 20 students.

The structure of the course

Time/Place	Activity
Jul 26 – Oct 14, 2021	Enrollment via SPUR / EXA On October 15th the applicants will be informed about their participation
Oct 15 – Oct 18, 2021	Enrollment via FLEXNOW Erasmus/ exchange students have to register using the accreditation form (to be found on the homepage) by email to: sekretariat.fo@ur.de
Nov 1, 2021	Latest date to withdraw/ de-register from the seminar via FLEXNOW
Oct 18, 2021 – Feb 7, 2022	Seminar takes place on Mondays, 10-12 h, W112
March 13, 2022, 23.59 h	Latest date for submission of the seminar paper (by email to kerstin.rego@ur.de)

Assessment

Assessment for the seminar will comprise of two components:

1. **Participation in the seminar:** presentation of a topic (about 30 minutes) / discussion / preparation of reading cards (weighting: 30%)
2. **Seminar paper**, length about 6000 words (not including references or appendices) (weighting: 70%)

In both parts at least sufficient performance must be achieved for successful completion. A success pass in the seminar is worth **6 credits**.