

Unravelling the Knot: Towards a Definition of 'Digital Labor'

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Abstract : The debate on the digitalization of the economy has raised questions about how both labor and the regulation of work processes are changing due to the introduction of digital technologies in the productive system. Within the literature, the term 'digital labor' is commonly used to identify the impact of digitalization on labor. Despite the wide use of this term, it is still not available an unambiguous definition of it, and this could create confusion in the use of terminology and in the attempts of classification. As a consequence, the purpose of this paper is to provide for a definition and to propose a classification of 'digital labor', resorting to the theoretical approach of organizational studies.

Keywords : digital labor, digitalization, data-driven algorithms, big data, organizational studies

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