

Introduction: platform labor and health

Introdução: trabalho por plataformas e saúde

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The platformization of labor not only jeopardizes labor rights and tax regularization mechanisms, but also generates serious effects on the health of people working in these economies. It is a business model in which bodies, identities and subjectivities are heavily eroded. From the voices of digital platform workers to academic efforts such as this special issue, there is increasing reflection on the magnitude of the emotional and physical health impacts on those who are surviving within these digital economies. In some cases, as in on-demand delivery work, even human losses are reported daily. For this reason, the workers on these platforms have organized themselves to make visible that “in your order goes my life”, “my life is not worth a dollar” and “not one delivery driver less”, thus generating a global movement (HIDALGO CORDERO; SALAZAR DEZA, 2021). In other cases, content moderators and microworkers have many mental health issues. For example, in 2020, Facebook had to pay \$52 million to its moderators who had developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Thus, it is urgent to analyze health and welfare on digital platforms, both in relation to current conditions and to prefigure what futures we want in relation to health among platform workers.

This dossier presents an opportunity to communicate research on health and platform labor, understanding health based on a wholistic view of the everyday life of workers. It presents theoretical, methodological, and empirical scenarios, especially in Brazil, understanding the country from the perspective of the majority world, the Global South (GROHMANN; QIU, 2020), not only as a specificity or exotic “case study”, but as subject to theorization; and, as a place from which knowledge is produced.

The dossier features five articles focusing on different sectors of platform labor. In Managerial ideology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) data training platform: working conditions and worker’s health in Brazil, Matheus Viana Braz *et al.* highlight the context of data annotation workers in Brazil, analyzing working conditions and workers’ health. The manuscript argues that managerial and Californian ideology is central to hiding labor conflicts and a sense of individualized suffering among microworkers.

The next two articles analyze relationships between content creators and health. Issaaf Karhawi and Michelle Prazeres present the notion of “algorithmic exhaustion” to explain how Brazilian digital influencers feel about the platform, with a permanent feeling of dissatisfaction, despondency, and exhaustion. This also includes feelings of a lack of creativity and fear of platform penalties.

Next, Ricardo Niederauer *et al.* focus on Brazilian YouTubers and how their relationship with the platform can cause health problems for workers. This includes a lack of transparency, a lot of unpredictability and volatility regarding payment across platforms. The two articles on Brazilian creators offer room to deepen the understanding of creators as workers contextualized in a Latin American reality.

The last two articles address health issues, especially involving platform delivery workers. Leo Vinicius Liberato analyzes the risk of physical violence between riders and customers, the immediate consequence of which is undue deactivation of workers in relation to the platforms. It links workers’ fears and risks to social, economic, and political factors, including the lack of platform regulation in Brazil.

Finally, the essay by Sergio Dias Guimarães Jr. *et al.* broadly analyzes the possibility of collective organization of platform workers in Brazil and their forms of resistance. For the authors, the organization in collectives and cooperatives can be an important element in addressing issues of health at work and social bonds of cooperation between workers. Thus, the struggle for worker organization is also a struggle for health and dignity at work.

Then, the dossier generates complex readings of the psychological, physical, and social effects that digital platforms are having on their workers and the social fabric in general. In this way, these texts generate fertile territory for situated research that has the capacity to interweave multidisciplinary areas of knowledge.

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