CALL FOR PAPERS: Disrupting Technology Conference 2025, Leeds

Following earlier successful international conferences held by the Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change (CERIC), we are pleased to announce a call for papers for the 3rd international conference on *Disrupting Technology* to be held on **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th June 2025 at Cloth Hall Court, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK**.

The Disrupting Technology conference is located in the context of increasing interest and debate on the impact of digital technologies on the world of work and employment. Much of the discussion on recent technological shifts has focused on challenging technological determinism or potentially optimistic or pessimistic visions of the future of work. It is recognised, for example, that digital technologies can both create and displace jobs, and that the impact of new technologies on the nature of work is shaped by a variety of contextual factors, both at the workplace and beyond. Despite this, much of the debate on the technological future of work remains speculative, while contemporary developments, such as the rise of platforms, are often presented as overly novel and dislocated from historical patterns of capitalist development and employer strategy.

Against this backdrop, the Disrupting Technology conference calls for more careful, empirically grounded, theorisations of technology, its novelty and its impact on work and employment relations. Beyond the technology itself, what is genuinely novel and transformative about automation, AI, 'platformisation' and other digital innovations, and which more mundane technologies might we be missing from the analysis? We welcome contributions across the following and similar themes:

- Digital transformations and the future of work

- The state, regulation and new technology

- Historical patterns of new technologies at work

- Management, organization, and technology

- Occupations, skills, professions, and technology

- Inequalities (race, gender, (dis)ability, income) and technology

- Labour mobility, migration and technology

- Management by algorithms and metric and new regimes of control

- Resisting, negotiating and new social contracts of technology at work

- Methods for studying work and technology – towards a research agenda

- Ethical concerns in the use of artificial intelligence and data analytics in the workplace

We intend that contributions recognise the influence of conflicted interests and actions by managers, workers, the state and other social actors on the patterns, processes and outcomes of technological innovation. By devoting more attention to contextualising and historicising the relationship between technology and work, we ask contributors to develop more critical accounts of the extent of transformation and disruption, vis-à-vis entrenchment or continuity of existing social relations and employment relationships.

Submission Process

Expressions of interest in presenting at the Disrupting Technology conference should be submitted in the form of an abstract to ceric@leeds.ac.uk by **Friday 7th March 2025**. Abstracts should be **no longer than 500 words**. Abstracts should include the paper title; core research question(s); contribution or debate; methods; key findings. We welcome theoretical, empirical and comparative analysis. There is no methodological preference. Early findings of ongoing research projects are encouraged.

Proposals for special panels within the conference are also welcome. Proposals should specify the rationale for such a panel and indicate the proposed speakers. We will confirm acceptance of conference papers by 28th March.

Organising Team

Research centres: The Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change (University of Leeds), with the ESRC Digital Futures at Work Research Centre (Leeds and Sussex).

Team: Ioulia Bessa, Esme Terry, Mark Stuart and Amelia Bradley-Newby (University of Leeds). All conference enquires to be sent to: ceric@leeds.ac.uk

Registration and conference fees

Registration details to follow. There will be a limited number of bursaries available for PhD students.

Key dates:

- ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday 7th March 2025
- Abstract decisions sent out: No later than 28th March
- Registration deadline: TBC