

XV Congresso Fluminense de Iniciação Científica e Tecnológica

28º
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20º
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Uberization: where is the dimension of the undignified work of digital platforms?

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To address the phenomenon of the uberization of work we need to understand the society of work in its global dimension, abandoning the analytical categories that are restricted to national societies (MACIEL, 2021). This perception is based on data and interpretations that see an increase in informality and flexibilization of work and the withdrawal or denial of rights. Castel (1997) calls this a "zone of global vulnerability" and his analysis remains opportune to think about work and current social issues. The conception of vulnerability is not only in understanding the fragility of the work relationship in isolation, such as that of an application driver, but in a "wave" of vulnerability, which gives rise to the demand for extra income and "gig" economy, or economy of the nozzles. The current precariousness of work on a global scale affects the central countries and radicalizes the precariousness in peripheral countries, such as Brazil, contributing to a "double precariousness" (MACIEL, 2021). Wage and dignified work was possible in the core countries because they consolidated broad welfare states still resistant despite neoliberal reforms. In the peripheral countries, on the other hand, they encounter constant mishaps in the structural history and in the constant neoliberal offensives. With this, digital platforms fulfill an ambiguous role in these regions: an alternative income where this demand exists at the same time as it is part of a global movement of precariousness of work. In the platform economy, according to Woodcock and Graham (2019), capital seeks to exploit increasingly precarious workers and it is in this context, in different regions and countries, that platforms are established. As an appendix of the thesis project, here the objective is to compare the five Latin American countries and five European countries that appear in the Fairwork Project Ratings database, making a parelell in a center and periphery perspective, highlighting the principles of fairwork to open discussions about the zone of world vulnerability and undignified work on the periphery of capitalism. These discussions are not intended at this first moment to establish any causal relationship. The qualitative methodology aims to analyze the existing Fairwork database, via documentary analysis. The results will serve as an empirical contribution to dialogue with the theoretical references of the project, in view of the hypothesis that uberization contributes to the for the production and reproduction of a global inequality, making the most impoverished or emerging countries even more precarious and strengthening a global economic elite.

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