

1. Events

Event Details

Rooted or Remote: Exploring the Impact of Digitally Mediated Work on Mobility and Belonging

Conference panel

Start date : 14 July 2025 09:00
Date de fin : 18 July 2025 17:00

Where : Viana do Castelo

Hosted by : Associação Portuguesa de Antropologia

Information sources :

<https://apa2025.eventqualia.net/en/home/congress/itinerancias/>

This panel proposes an exploration of the interconnections between im/mobilities and digitally mediated work. Almost all work today entails the use of digital technologies, whose multiple applications are transforming how work is assigned, experienced, performed, and controlled. By digitally mediated work, we refer broadly to work practices reconfigured through digital platforms, algorithms, and data processing, resulting in practices that may include fully online labour—whether in person or remote—or physical labour facilitated by digital platforms. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the global adoption of remote work, raising fundamental questions about the future of professional mobility in an era where work is increasingly detached from physical location. Simultaneously, it triggered an intensification of the platform economy and on-demand labour, such as delivery or care work. By bringing together diverse empirical examples of digitally mediated work, this panel aims to foster reflection on how these transformations in the work realm affect how people imagine, desire, and practice im/mobility across different life stages and contexts. For some, digitally mediated work represents an opportunity to settle in one place; for others, it may offer a way to avoid migration or, conversely, a tool for embracing ongoing mobility. For others still, it might provide a means to return to a desired homeland. In sum, digitally mediated work can reshape not only patterns of migration and everyday mobilities, but also fundamental concepts of belonging, community-making, and citizenship. The panel welcomes empirically grounded studies and theoretical reflections on the connections between im/mobilities and digitally mediated work across various types of workers and mobile individuals: remote and gig workers, highly skilled migrants, digital nomads, and platform workers. Altogether, the papers will chart emerging meanings and practices of im/mobility, community, and belonging resulting from the impact of digitally mediated work.

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Mobility

For the Mobile Lives Forum, mobility is understood as the process of how individuals travel across distances in order to deploy through time and space the activities that make up their lifestyles. These travel practices are embedded in socio-technical systems, produced by transport and communication industries and techniques, and by normative discourses on these practices, with considerable social, environmental and spatial impacts.

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