

# THE EMERGENCE AND RISE OF PLATFORM CO-OPERATIVES: ELEMENTS FOR POTENTIAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE SHARING ECONOMY?

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The focus of the research is on platform co-operatives as alternative models for social-economic organizations online that create and distribute equitable digital work, more secure forms of employment and fairer market transactions within the sharing economy, following the co-operative principles.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can the co-operative model become a viable means for democratizing the sharing economy?
- How can platform co-operativism create better forms of digital work, collectively owned workplaces, and democratically governed firms, where co-operation rather than competition is the guiding value?

## RESEARCH GOALS

- To map out self-identified experiences as platform co-operatives in Canada and more broadly, understand their characteristics and processes of socio-economic organization, and document the key factors enabling and constraining their development, growth and sustainability.
- To identify and analyse the organizational strategies, forms of social interaction, education tactics and political actions deployed by platform co-operatives to sustain, promote, and negotiate the co-operative principles and platform values of open Internet, democratic governance and joined ownership within the sharing economy.



## OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

The researcher is seeking networking opportunities with other researchers and interested individuals and organizations, with whom to engage in conversations, and ideas and knowledge sharing regarding the potentials of platform co-operativism to transform the sharing economy.



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Please include the term

“Platform Cooperative Research”

in the subject line.