Platforms as relational spaces: constraints, choices, and social power

Angelo Salento
Technological promise and technological imperative

Revolution, disruption
Depoliticisation
Against determinism: 
(1) Continuity

- Technological path-dependence
- Institutional path-dependence
Against determinism:

(2) technological transformation as a space for decisions

- Conception/design decisions
- Adoption decisions
- Operation decisions

- Power is relevant:
  - (a) between platforms
  - (b) in the platforms
  - (c) between platforms and users
Platforms as relational spaces
The importance of staying anti-determinist and two ways for tackling platform capitalism

- Promoting *platform cooperativism*
- Regulating platforms, or rather regulating the exercise of power

- Without alternative promises, the prophecy of the fourth industrial revolution is going to self-fulfill.