

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

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# 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
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- 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.