

Industrial relations from below. The struggle for recognition of food delivery workers in Italy

Friday, 17 September 2021 12:30 (30 minutes)

Since it has been platformized, food delivery sector is characterized by a transnational wave of unionization which has not only made their worker a symbol of precariousness, but it has also led to crucial achievements. In this sense, considering the high institutional involvements that has made possible to achieve results such as the recent agreement signed with Just Eat, Italy seems to be at the forefront of an emerging tendency where platform workers are achieving results that are challenging the neoliberal view of Industrial relations. These aspects make food delivery struggle a ideal case study to look at how industrial relations may be built from below, both overcoming the difficulties that platform organizations provide to union activities and addressing a successful path to achieve their demands. The analysis will then look at factors such as organizing practices and union strategies, other than by employers' behaviors, but overall at the crucial role played by the State, intended both at national and local level as well that in its judiciary articulation. The concept of recognition - grounded on a solid sociological and political theoretical debate - will then be used to provide an understanding of those factors which have been key in determining a successful result. The empirical evidences provided from a participant ethnographic approach that the authors are conducting within Riders Union Bologna since its formation.

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Session Classification: 5.1

Track Classification: Track 2