

The Friday Forum

On Teams

3.30pm–5.00pm AEST, 30 September 2022

An Amazon Effect? How new technologies, new markets and new management are changing the world of work

Often heard but much less substantiated, the ‘future of work’ is a phrase uttered by company executives, corporate consultants, policymakers, trade unionists and academics alike, with theoretical, practical, performative and sometimes questionable intent. But what does this phrase mean for us in ‘real world’ terms, in the here and now of life in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic? Elements of this ‘future’ are said to include the platform and gig economies, crowd work, enhanced surveillance and datafication. Meanwhile, the notion of an ‘Amazon effect’ portends the hyper-flexibilization of work and employment practices. This forum brings together experts to address different dimensions of the future narrative via insights from their own research. The forum will explore and discuss the future of machine-human relations in workplace contexts, the impacts of new technologies, and the likely consequences of robots, AI and automation for job creation and destruction.

Moderator/Chair: Dr Hannah Forsyth, National School of Arts & Humanities, ACU

Speakers:

Dr Jim Stanford, Centre for Future Work, The Australia Institute

Dr Kendra Briken, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Dr Lutfun Nahar Lata, University of Queensland

Dr Alex Veen, University of Sydney



An Amazon delivery driver carries boxes into a van outside of a distribution facility on 2 Feb.22 in Hawthorne, California. Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images.