



DATA ABOLITION FOR FAIR WORK

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MULTIMEDIA STUDIES CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS SERIES *presents*

VEENA DUBAL, JD, PhD

4 pm, Wednesday, September 28 | ZOOM

Platforms like Uber and Lyft extol “gig work” as emancipatory arrangements that empower people to work anytime, anywhere, without supervision. They recruit racial minorities and vulnerable workers, including the undocumented, formerly incarcerated, and others left behind in the traditional labor market. But data harvested through the apps is often deployed to coercively induce workers to labor longer and accept unprofitable tasks. When sold to third parties, the data fuels algorithmic models that follow workers long after they log off, potentially locking them into actuarial classification systems that facilitate payday loans, influence credit scores, and impede future employment. The immoral economies that result devastate individual lives and communities. Dubal will address the failure of current laws to recognize the labor that gig workers contribute to valuable algorithmic commodities, and examine the invisible and mis-regulated systems of control that exacerbate racial and economic inequality. Drawing on the discourse of criminal justice activists, she argues for “data abolition,” advocating that these data practices should be statutorily banned, and existing datasets deleted.

Veena Dubal is Professor of Law at UC Hastings. Her research at the intersection of law, technology, and precarious work has been published in top-tier law reviews and academic journals, and cited by the California Supreme Court. Her commentary features regularly in national media, local outlets, and documentary films. She holds a JD and PhD from UC Berkeley, and has spent more than a decade as an embedded ethnographer of organizing taxi, Uber, and Lyft drivers.

ZOOM registration required at: <https://bit.ly/ccveenadubal>

More information at gsim@fau.edu



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