



Gig work in Canada today: Contextualizing precarious work

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While gig work is not a new form of employment contract, the penetration of smartphones and apps are connecting us in Canada to an increasingly frictionless online marketplace for skills and goods. New statistical data makes it clear that the gig-work employment model is growing in popularity in Canada, fueled by economic distress, perceived opportunity and enabling technology, but the implications of these shifts are poorly understood. The open question for policymakers is, “how can the gig economy be understood within the context of the broader Canadian economy?” and “how can Canadians who engage with gig work be supported and protected by appropriate employment and labour policies?”

In her presentation, Karen reviews the demographics and characteristics of gig workers in Canada and the key policy questions. She will address what is new and what is being merely re-introduced under a different guise, and the different ways in which groups experience gig work. She will provide an evidence-driven picture of the Canadian gig-work population to better understand their opportunities, constraints, vulnerabilities and needs, ending with recommendations for areas that require deeper policy and research.