Biography
Trebor Scholz is a scholar-activist and Associate Professor for Culture & Media at The New School in New York City. His books Uber-Worked and Underpaid. How Workers Are Disrupting the Digital Economy (Polity, 2016) develops an analysis of the challenges posed by digital labor and introduces the concept of platform cooperativism as a way of joining the co-op model with the digital economy. His edited volumes include Digital Labor: The Internet as Playground and Factory (Routledge, 2013), and Ours to Hack and to Own: Platform Cooperativism. A New Vision for the Future of Work and a Fairer Internet (included on the list of Top Tech Books of 2017 by Wired Magazine). In 2009, Scholz started to convene the influential digital labor conferences at The New School. Today, he frequently presents on the future of work to media scholars, lawyers, activists, designers, developers, union leaders, and policymakers worldwide. Scholz is a member of the Barcelona Advisory Council on Technological Sovereignty. His articles and ideas have appeared in The Nation, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Le Monde, and The Washington Post.

Abstract
Scholz has worked on digital labor since 2008. After publishing The Internet as Playground and Factory and launching an international network around this discourse, he has, in 2014, started to frame the concept of “platform cooperativism” which joins the political, economic, and cultural model of cooperatives with the digital economy. In short, he is asking: What would it be like if a platform like Uber would be owned by its drivers or if a network of cities would own and operate a platform like Airbnb? He has since worked with communities around the world to advance this model. He founded the Platform Cooperativism Consortium at The New School and is now working to start build out this global ecosystem of over two hundred projects in communities that most depend on it. In this talk, Scholz will show that a democratic platform economy is not only possible but that it already exists. He will invite you to get involved in this movement to take back the Internet. To learn more: http://platform.coop/about