Unintentional Parallels

ANTHROPOLOGY

5 years studying Anthropology

- Archaeological digs up and down the Americas
- Ethnographic fieldwork of Quantified Self

COMPUTER SCIENCE

5 years studying Anthropology

- Archaeological digs up and down the Americas
- Ethnographic fieldwork of Quantified Self
- "Nothing new under the sun"

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5 years studying Computer Science

- People studying crowdsourcing and gig work
- People studying artificial intelligence

COMPUTER SCIENCE

5 years studying Anthropology

- Archaeological digs up and down the Americas
- Ethnographic fieldwork of Quantified Self
- "Nothing new under the sun"

5 years studying Computer Science

- People studying crowdsourcing and gig work
- People studying artificial intelligence
- Everything old is new again

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

ALIA

Allowing workers to book clients, communicate with each other, and make decisions about how the platform should operate

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Worker-owned cooperative

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VITAE

Giving crowd workers the ability to stand behind collective reputations, and attract more skilled, lucrative work

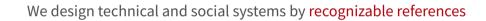
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Digital hiring hall



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Worker-owned cooperative

Relief from precarity

VITAE

Giving crowd workers the ability to stand behind collective reputations, and attract more skilled, lucrative work

Digital hiring hall

Solidarity

Allowing workers to book clients, communicate with each other, and make decisions about how the platform should operate

Worker-owned cooperative

Relief from precarity

VITAE

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Digital hiring hall

Solidarity

Solutions to underlying social issues

ALIA

Allowing workers to book clients, communicate with each other, and make decisions about how the platform should operate



Lourdes Dobarganes cleans the apartment of a client in San Francisco. She is the kind of domestic worker Alia is trying to serve by allowing individual clients to chip in on benefits. (Photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez, San Francisco Chronicle/Polaris)

Mercedes Martinez scrubs other people's kitchen sinks and mops their floors every day of the week. At night she comes home to care for one of her sons. The money she makes covers their bills, but not benefits. When she catches the flu, she doesn't get paid. But one of her clients recently introduced her to Alia, a website that helps her

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We can draw from a much deeper well of scholarship than Computer Science to recognize the patterns we're recreating in ostensibly novel technical systems.

Artificial Intelligence

Street-level bureaucracies
CHI 2019 (Best Paper)

Crowd work systems

Piecework

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