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Issues in Digital Labour

In line with Cultural Studies' (re)turn to labour and to production cultures, this session focuses specifically on the meaning-making, symbol-creating activities of digital labourers in the cultural industries. Often, discussions of digitalization and the cultural industries attend to the impact of digitalization on 'old' cultural industries, but there are many cultural workers whose labour came into existence as a direct result of digitalization – such as web designers, usability and user-experience designers, new media artists. This session is about them, and a range of issues which impact on their labour. These include: the relationship between precarity and active citizenship; usability as indirect immaterial labour; the specific ways that web designers conceive of user-generated content, and that new media artists appropriate the technological tools of their craft.