

**Title**

How Online Gig Economy Reshapes the International Labour Market Amid COVID-19

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**Abstract**

Enabled by the Internet technology, online digital employment platforms have presented opportunities for employers and freelancers to find each other regardless of their physical locations and at lower administrative and search costs. The evolution of the online gig economy generated new paradigms in the labour market in several aspects including: a new mode of position-candidate search and matching; cross-regional employment; pay level parity; and a labour valuation equilibrium based on online records and feedback systems. COVID-19 has caused dramatic job cuts and forced furlough. While unemployment figures are being closely watched, we will evaluate the impact of the structural change by monitoring the online gig employment platforms and testing whether they are opening up new opportunities for both businesses and workers. We hope to derive insights that will help understand entrepreneurship and inform policies aimed at small businesses and the self-employed - groups that are heavily hit amid this pandemic.

**Data description**

The proposed research will collect data of posted jobs, employers, candidates and their bidding prices, and the chosen winners in different sectors (IT, graphic and animation design, translation, creative writing, etc) from the main online employment platforms, like Upwork.com, freelancer.com.

**JEL codes for the project**

J01 Labor Economics: General

J08 Labor Economics Policies

J31 Wage Level and Structure • Wage Differentials

J6 Mobility, Unemployment, Vacancies, and Immigrant Workers

**Key-words**

Online gig economy, COVID-19, small business, freelancing, search and matching