

Axel Honneth and Digital Alienation New Perspectives on Social Theory between Labor Process, Sociology and Social Philosophy



Eugenio Capitani¹ and Matteo Rinaldini²

¹Department of Economy "Marco Biagi", University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy

²Department of Economy and Communication, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy

Axel Honneth's Theory of Recognition has engaged first with the sociology of Nancy Fraser and subsequently with new perspectives in social philosophy, aiming to merge the thematic legacy of the Frankfurt School with European and American political thought. Honneth's research has proven to be a decisive tool in reconstructing the theoretical and operational challenges of recent years, as evidenced by various scholars' accounts (Tekin, 2023; Piromalli, 2023). Particularly, given the digital transition in workplaces and the widespread acceleration of technological updates (Rosa, 2016), labor unions and researchers have highlighted that workers' primary concerns today revolve around the loss of freedom and recognition of their contributions, rather than traditional worries about wages or working hours. In this paper, we seek to delve into the connection between the Theory of Recognition and current modes of digitalization, aiming to demonstrate how Honneth's thought can help us understand and define what appears to be a form of digital alienation. Through a theoretical and operational analysis of some productive and social processes, this work aims to elucidate the significance of Honneth's work for contemporary interpretative frameworks of digital transition at both the labor and philosophical levels.

Biography:

Eugenio Capitani earned his bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Bologna. He studied piano and composition from 2000 to 2013 at the "Achille Peri" Music Institute in Reggio Emilia. Subsequently, he obtained a master's degree in Philosophical Sciences from the University of Bologna. He completed a first-level Master's degree at the University of Padua and taught in high schools in Reggio Emilia, and now he is a PhD student at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia with a research project New Forms of Contemporary Alienation in the Italian Digital Market. He's a member of Matildic International Association.