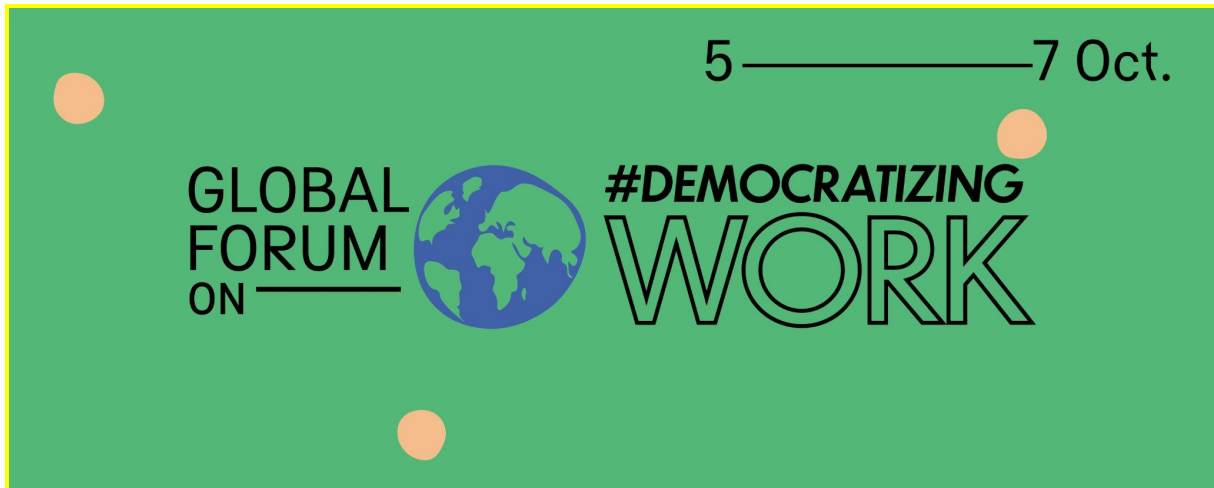


First-ever Global Forum on Democratizing Work  
brings together thousands of participants  
from around the world  
**to launch a global movement.**  
**We are pushing to democratize firms and guarantee jobs  
for all,  
as crucial means to save the planet**



- Following the global success of the [Democratizing Work Manifesto](#) powered by 13 female academics: **Julie Battilana** (Harvard University), **Alyssa Battistoni** (Barnard College), **Adelle Blackett** (McGill University), **Julia Cagé** (Sciences Po-Paris), **Neera Chandhoke** (University of Delhi), **Isabelle Ferreras** (FNRS-University of Louvain-Harvard LWP), **Lisa Herzog** (University of Groningen), **Imge Kaya Sabanci** (IE Business School), **Sara Lafuente Hernandez** (University of Brussels-ETUI), **Helene Landemore** (Yale University), **Flavia Maximo** (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto), **Dominique Méda** (Paris Dauphine-PSL), and **Pavlina Tcherneva** (Bard College-Levy Institute) published during the first lockdown in May, 2020 in **27 languages, 36 countries and 43 newspapers across the globe, and signed by thousands of academics:** [www.DemocratizingWork.org](http://www.DemocratizingWork.org).
- The first-ever **Global Forum on Democratizing Work** will take place online on **October 5-7** : gathering more than **2000** academics, business and union leaders, elected officials, and climate activists, to hear from **380 speakers** (a.o. Thomas Piketty, Jayati Ghosh, Paul Magnette, Sara Nelson, Adenike Oladosu, Anahi Durand...) through **more than 100 panels**.
- This will be the **starting point of a global movement pushing to democratize firms and guarantee jobs for all, as a crucial step in our collective effort to save the planet.**

On 5–7 October 2021, the first-ever [Global Forum on Democratizing Work](#) will take place online, attracting thousands of participants from across the globe to discuss the three core principles of the [#DemocratizingWork Manifesto](#): [WORK: DEMOCRATIZE. DECOMMUNIFY.](#)

[DECARBONIZE](#). This landmark text was published during the first lockdown in May 2020 in 27 languages, 36 countries and 43 newspapers across the globe.

At the Global Forum on Democratizing Work, **the 5 continents will be represented** – 16 countries now include a Democratizing Work national chapter (a.o. USA, India, Philippines, Brazil, New Zealand, France, Belgium, Italy, etc.) – **featuring a total of 380 speakers, with 100 panels in 9 different languages**. Participants come from different backgrounds: universities, trade unions, progressive businesses, public institutions, environmental and human rights NGOs, and the media.

Each day will cover each of the 3 principles of the #DemocratizingWork Manifesto in order to amplify their relevance and engage leaders and citizens across the globe to join the movement, and its call to action. The high-level speakers represent a broad coalition of sectors – from academia, to international organisations, to labour organisers, and businesses – including: **Jayati Ghosh** (UN High Level Advisory Board on Economic, Social Affairs, India/USA), **Jean-Pascal van Ypersele** (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Vice-Chair for AR5, Belgium, University of Louvain), **Arzu Çerkezoğlu** (President of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey), **Ricardo Gutierrez** (General Secretary of the European Federation of Journalists, Belgium), **Maria del Carmen Cruz Martinez** (Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Household Workers), **Thomas Piketty** (Economics School of Paris, France), **Isabelle Schömann**, (European Trade Union Confederation, Confederal Secretary), **Larry Lessig** (Harvard Law School, USA), **Adenike Oladosu** (Ecofeminist, climate activist, Nigeria), **Aurore Lalucq**, (Member of the European Parliament, France), **Ndongo Sylla** (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Senegal-Germany), **Iñigo Albizuri Landazabal** (Mondragon Cooperative Corporation, Spain), **François Gemenne** (FNRS/Sciences Po-Paris), **Liz Medina** (Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO), **Ashwani Kumar** (Indian National Congress), **Amitabh Beharetc** (Oxfam), etc. See program of the 3 keynote and plenaries below.

## **Background Information**

### **Sharing solutions for a more democratic post-Covid workplace**

The Democratizing Work initiative began in May 2020, in the first wave of COVID-19, to acknowledge a simple fact: working humans are so much more than resources. The past 18 months revealed the urgency of this message: In parallel to the devastating effects of the pandemic, the globe also suffered increasing climate change-related natural disasters. The IPCC released its last report in August with several alarming conclusions. If we do not act now, the consequences will be devastating for the planet and the human and non-human beings living on it. We can no longer ignore this reality. Academics can contribute by helping societies find a sustainable and democratic path forward and by offering pathways to divest from the dominant extractive economic model. Academics can act as drivers of change by researching and articulating the need to democratize firms and decommodify work. We must necessarily do this to develop and nurture a sustainable and democratic economy that benefits both humans and the planet.

### **Women driving change**

The academic leaders behind #DemocratizingWork are female: the Manifesto has been initiated by **Isabelle Ferreras** (FNRS-University of Louvain-Harvard LWP), **Julie Battilana** (Harvard University) and **Dominique Méda** (Paris Dauphine-PSL), who first drafted the

op-ed, and the core group leading this worldwide initiative is composed today of **Alyssa Battistoni** (Barnard College), **Adelle Blackett** (McGill University), **Julia Cagé** (Sciences Po-Paris), **Neera Chandhoke** (University of Delhi), **Lisa Herzog** (University of Groningen), **Imge Kaya Sabanci** (IE Business School), **Sara Lafuente Hernandez** (University of Brussels-ETUI), **Helene Landemore** (Yale University), **Flavia Maximo** (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto) and **Pavlina Tcherneva** (Bard College-Levy Institute).

This group of female scholars soon realized that writing a Manifesto was necessary to agitate the status quo, but was not sufficient long term. Powered by the energy and enthusiasm of the signatories, they organized the first ever *Global Forum on Democratizing Work* on the 1st anniversary of the release of the Manifesto, to innovate and begin orchestrating change to **democratize firms** and **decommodify work** in order to **decarbonize** and save **our planet**. National chapters and signatories of the Manifesto have submitted ideas for the Global Forum's panels. Today the program includes 100 exciting panels featuring an array of leaders speaking and discussing why and how to **democratize firms**, **decommodify work** and **decarbonize the planet**.

### **Practical information**

The Global Forum will take place **virtually** on **Tuesday October 5**, **Wednesday October 6**, and **Thursday October 7**. Each day will center on one of the three principles of the Manifesto – DEMOCRATIZE, DECOMMODIFY, DECARBONIZE.

October 7, 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the World Day for Decent Work (WDDW) organized by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). This is no coincidence as the #DemocratizingWork Manifesto starts with the sentence as simple but powerful as: "[Working humans are so much more than 'resources.'](#)"

**When?** Tuesday October 5 > Thursday October 7, 2021

#### **How to register?**

As the Global Forum will be a completely virtual immersive experience, it is necessary to register and create an account to access the platform [via this link](#) (registration is free of charge).

Link: <https://hopin.com/events/global-forum-on-democratizing-work>

**Any questions?** Please send an email to [camille.guenane@academieroyale.be](mailto:camille.guenane@academieroyale.be), ccing [globalforum@democratizingwork.org](mailto:globalforum@democratizingwork.org)

**Media queries** should be sent to [camille.guenane@academieroyale.be](mailto:camille.guenane@academieroyale.be), ccing [globalforum@democratizingwork.org](mailto:globalforum@democratizingwork.org)

**Twitter account of the Global Forum:** @GlobalForumDW

### **A participative Forum**

The Global Forum will include a strong participative dimension, allowing attendees to join in sessions of various formats as well as to engage in Q&A sessions, meet and mingle, and discuss ideas and initiatives in smaller groups, based on common but diverse interests.

Citizens around the world are invited to join the building of this global movement by sharing thoughts with their national fellows, fostering initiatives across disciplinary and national boundaries, creating national and regional dynamics, listening to inspiring speeches given by committed speakers, engaging in meaningful roundtables and panel discussions, discovering path-breaking books and works, and so much more...

### **Program of the 3 plenary sessions**

Registration free but necessary to access, via <https://www.GlobalForumDW.org>

All plenary sessions will take place at 11am-1.30pm NYC // 7:30pm-10pm Delhi / 1.00-2.30am Sydney.

Plenaries will be live-translated in English, French, Spanish.

**Tuesday, October 5th: The Relevance of DEMOCRATIZING WORK for People and the Planet**

Kick-off of the Global Forum by Julie Battilana (Harvard), Isabelle Ferreras (FNRS/Louvain) and Dominique Méda (Paris-Dauphine)

Keynote chaired by Julie Battilana (Harvard, SICl) USA

Anthony Kwame Appiah (Professor, philosopher, New York University, USA-Ghana)

Plenary panel chaired by Imge Kaya Sabanci (IE Business School, Madrid)

Arzu Çerkezoğlu (President, Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK)), Turkey

Iñigo Albizuri Landazabal (Global Head of Public Affairs, Mondragon Corporation), Spain

Elizabeth Anderson (Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan), USA

**Wednesday, October 6th: The Relevance of DECOMMODIFYING WORK for People and the Planet**

Keynote chaired by Adelle Blackett (McGill University), Canada

Jayati Ghosh (Economist, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, U.N. high-level advisory board on economic, social affairs), India-USA

Plenary panel chaired by Pavlina Tcherneva (Bard College) USA

Aurore Lalucq, (Member of the European Parliament), France

Jean Drèze (Professor of Economics, Ranchi University; Delhi School of Economics), India

Ndongo Sylla (Economist, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation), Senegal-Germany, former technical advisor at the Presidency of the Republic of Senegal

**Thursday, October 7th: The Relevance of DECARBONIZING WORK for People and the Planet**

Keynote chaired by Flavia Maximo (University of Ouro Preto, Brazil)

Tatiana Ribeiro, (Adjunct Professor at the Federal University of Ouro Preto, University of Ouro Preto, Brazil, Member of the Latin American Democratic Constitutionalism Network, Coordinator of the Socioenvironmental Studies and Research Group/GEPSA) Brazil

Plenary panel chaired by Lisa Herzog (Groningen University), The Netherlands

Kate Aronoff (Journalist, The New Republic), USA

Kristina Touzenis (Managing Partner BST Impact and Head of the Geneva Chapter of Women in Sustainable Finance), Switzerland

A. Eriç Yeldan (Professor of Economics and Dean at Kadir Has University; Member-elect of the Science Academy), Turkey

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