

THANK YOU!

This anthology is the result of a longstanding collaboration between the two editors researching digital socio-spatial structures on the one hand and urban alternatives located in everyday practices on the other from a feminist geography perspective. The intensification of our collaboration on current dynamics of digitalization and platformization of urban infrastructures, labor relations in the care sector, and urban life was made possible by the Elisabeth List Fellowship Program for Gender Research at the University of Graz, Austria. Our project *Gender just urban development in smart city contexts* included the research leave of Sybille Bauriedl from her professorship at the Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany. The fellowship has provided us with (1) time to work on the state of the art and to do empirical research on care platforms in Europe, (2) funding for three outstanding junior fellow researchers (Yannick Ecker, Henk Wiechers and Marcella Rowek), and (3) resources to organize an international conference.

The fellowship started in March 2020, right at the moment when the spread of the Covid-19 virus turned into a pandemic. Unexpectedly, we were forced to get going not face-to-face, but online only and to collaborate out of the respective home offices in various cities. However, the objective of the research, to investigate the trends of digital infrastructures in European cities, got a new dynamic and public relevance over night when the first lockdown kicked-off in Austria on March 16, 2020. The demand for delivery services increased by leaps and bounds, while the demand for intimate domestic services, short-term rentals, and ridehailing collapsed. Despite being bound to our respective homes, we found ourselves right in the research field, a very ambivalent experience that continues to influence our lives.

We would like to thank the junior fellows of the project and the coordinators of the fellowship program in particular for their extremely flexible response to the changing situation of the research subject and the work situ-

ation. Our originally planned critical reflection on smart urbanism in relation to gender relations had been shifted to the examination of platform urbanism and digitized urban everyday life.

We are also grateful to all participants of the international conference *Platform Urbanism – Towards a technocapitalist transformation of European cities?* in March 2021. Despite being still – or again – in locked down life, we had the chance to discuss face-to-zoom and via various other communication platforms intensively. After the conference, transcript publishing immediately made us an offer for a book publication, which we were very happy to agree on. In the last years the publisher has become specialized on the nexus of society, technology, and space in the field of cultural studies. In 2018, we have already published the anthology *Smart Cities. Critical perspectives on digitalization in cities* with transcript. For this current volume, some of the conference participants have contributed their papers in more detail and we were able to engage additional authors. We would like to thank all of them for the inspiring discussions of their drafts and the excellent revisions.

Last, but not least, we would like to extend our gratitude for the technical support of the conference warranted by Luca Braun, Theresa Bürstmayr, and Mario Diethart and to Vivien Breinbauer for preparing the final book manuscript. We also thank Marielle Smith for her professional proof reading.

In nearly every end there is a new beginning: in the aftermath of the fellowship, we were working on a project proposal together with labor and feminist geographer Karin Schwiter from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. And right at the moment when this book's manuscript was finished, we got the approval for the follow-up project *Urban Platform Economies: Transformations of labour and intersectional inequalities in care services (TICS)*, which is funded by the German Research Foundation, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Austrian Science Fund. We are very excited about further collaborations and debates on digitized urban futures and critical, feminist reflections on technocapitalism, racialized labor relations, and gender justice.

Sybille Bauriedl, Flensburg & Anke Strüver, Graz, April 2022