

NOT-EQUAL

EPSRC NetworkPlus: Social Justice through the Digital Economy

Project Review Form - Mid-Term Review Pilot Project

Please submit this form to notequal@ncl.ac.uk.

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Lead Applicant (PI): Dr James Muldoon	Co-Investigators (names and organisations):
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Job Title: Senior Lecturer	Julian Siravo, Autonomy
Department: Politics	Supporting Partner(s):
Organisation: University of Exeter	Project Title: Co-Designing a Food Delivery Co-operative
	Project Reference Number: RES 0550 / 7461 / 199
	NE02.002

1. SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of the activities and/or initial findings of your research project to date. This also includes events, engagement activities with non-academic partners and any other activities. Please include any images or website links that could be used for dissemination purposes (at least 500 words).

The research project has been successful in achieving its major research objectives and has recently produced the two most important outputs: a policy paper and a report for co-operatives. The policy paper is entitled "[Delivering Rights: Alternatives in the Online Food Economy](#)" and was the result of extensive desk research and interviews with workers at co-operatives concerning how to best support their businesses and the co-operative sector. The second major output produced by the project was a report, "[How to Launch a Food Delivery Co-operative](#)" which brings together all of the evidence we have collected from emerging businesses in this field in the form of a practical and user-friendly guide for new co-operatives.

The process of producing these reports required a long lead up period in which we engaged in an initial literature review on platform co-operatives to learn from existing theoretical approaches. We synthesized this information to better understand what advantages the co-operative model could offer over traditional venture-capital-backed corporate platforms. We also reviewed the literature on food delivery platforms in order to understand why these workers were looking for a more ethical alternative.



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Following this initial literature review we reached out to new platform co-operatives in the sector through our project partners Co-operatives UK and the European federation, CoopCycle. These two organisations put us in touch with all of the new co-operatives in this sector who also became partners in this collaborative project.

Our research team engaged with and gathered data from five UK based co-operatives: the Doorstep Collective in London, Chorlton Bike Deliveries, Manchester CoopCycle, the York Collective and Bristol CoopCycle. We conducted semi-structured interviews with member from each of the co-operatives and gathered data from them about their business operations. This covered questions such as how much they charged, when they operated, how many riders they had, how many customers, was their business growing, what were their plans for future growth, etc. We also organised a collaborative discovery workshop with all of the co-operatives in which participants collectively discussed shared problems and potentials for future collaborations. In addition, we engaged with policy specialists who have worked on creating new co-operatives in the UK from the New Economics Foundation and Co-operatives UK.

Once we had completed these initial engagement activities, we began working on drafting the two reports and maintained close contact with our stakeholders throughout this process. We held another workshop in which we discussed with the food delivery co-ops what kind of resources they thought would be useful for new co-operatives starting out and how these resources should be structured. On the basis of feedback and support from these co-operatives we put together an initial design structure for the “How to Launch” guide and shared drafts of this report with our stakeholders. Following a couple of rounds of feedback and some more discussions we decided that the How to Launch guide would be collaboratively released by Autonomy think tank, CoopCycle and Co-operatives UK to ensure that it was disseminated widely through each of the organisations’ networks and so that each organization could contribute to the production of the document.

Please indicate if these details can be shared in a blog post on the Not-Equal website NO

2. WORK PLAN

Please explain any deviations from your work plan, the reasons for this and plans to address the issue (up to 250 words)

The research team fulfilled the main objectives and kept to the main schedule of the workplan except with some minor delays that pushed back the production of the final report by 1-2 months.



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Further Information

If you have any further questions regarding this form, please contact notequal@ncl.ac.uk.



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