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Property Power: The unseen intersections between state and real estate finance actors that shape our cities

This dissertation project, using Jakarta's app-mediated motorbike taxi market, examines how digital mobility platform workers can develop structures of solidarity that underpin, resist and transform technological platforms. Below I include a summary of my three papers:

Paper 1: Solidarity Sans Shop floor: The Technologies and Histories of Worker Organization For Jakarta's Platform Workers

This paper examines the unique form digital labor organization has taken in Jakarta to show how these collectivities were borne out of an interaction between affordances of technology and the pre-existing institutions of Jakarta's mobility market within which the platform is embedded. By showing how technological outcomes are refracted and co-constituted by both local particularities, this paper shifts focus to the resilience of informal institutions in face of emerging technologies and surprising hybridity that emerges as the digital is domesticated and implicated in local social relations.

Paper 2: What's in a Network? Infrastructures of Mutual Aid for Digital Platform Workers during COVID-19

This paper examines the role of mutual aid networks in mediating labor precarity and crisis for gig workers during COVID19. Using an original survey of 350 mobility platform drivers in Jakarta conducted in May 2020, I find that mutual aid dispersed through associative, informal labor networks became an essential infrastructure of support for drivers during the pandemic. Survey results indicate most drivers in Jakarta were able to mobilize their pre-existing labor networks for extensive informational, occupational and emotional support. However, this support was not universally accessible: the pre-pandemic structures of a driver's community and drivers' own participation within the community correlated with the magnitude of community support drivers reported receiving.

Paper 3: Spatial Resistance of Digital Platform Workers

In Jakarta instead of witnessing the rise of (as expected) a disciplined, optimized homogeneity of algorithmic management, we see drivers adopting what could be considered 'counter-hegemonic' spatial strategies which resist the governance of the app. This paper focuses on three such strategies whereby first, drivers create a spatially-rooted mode of organization contravening the platform's organizing economic logic; second, drivers use strategic acceptances to mimic pre-platform offline markets; third, drivers manage their spatial positioning in opposition to the optimizations of the platform. By looking at these everyday forms of resistances, this paper shows how these practices

are not marginal to the system and not defensively framed around survival but help drivers gain power and the attention of the platforms, forcing key business model changes.