

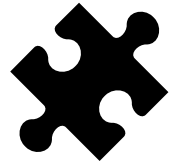
Technology & Labor

Dr. Justin Shin

McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society

Stanford University

Split! The! Room!



Job 1:

\$100,000

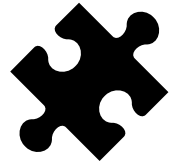
Coworkers are mediocre
and distant

Job 2:

\$??????

Coworkers are highly
competent, friendly, and
kind

Split! The! Room!



Job 1:

\$100,000

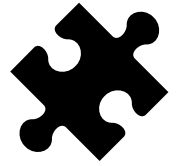
Portland Oregon, in-person 5 days a week

Job 2:

\$??????

Fully Remote

Split! The! Room!



Job 1:

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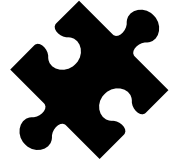
No vacation days, 5 days
of sick leave

Job 2:

\$??????

20 Days of paid vacation,
Full pay for first 6 weeks
of an illness

Split! The! Room!



Job 1:

\$100,000

8am-5am 5 days a week

Job 2:

\$??????

Flexible working hours, 4 day and 5 day options. Pick continuous hours from 7am-9pm.

What makes a good job good and a great job great?

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- **Salary** - How much counts as a good/great salary?
- **Benefits** - healthcare, leave, retirement
- **Job security** - reliable hours and employment
- **Equity/ownership** - a stake in the value you help create
- **Autonomy** - control over how, when, and where you work
- **Dignity** - not being surveilled, not being treated as disposable
- **Community / coworkers** - working alongside people you value
- **Meaning** - making something you can stand behind

3 Stories of Technology & Labor

The Luddites, Power Looms, and Factory Work



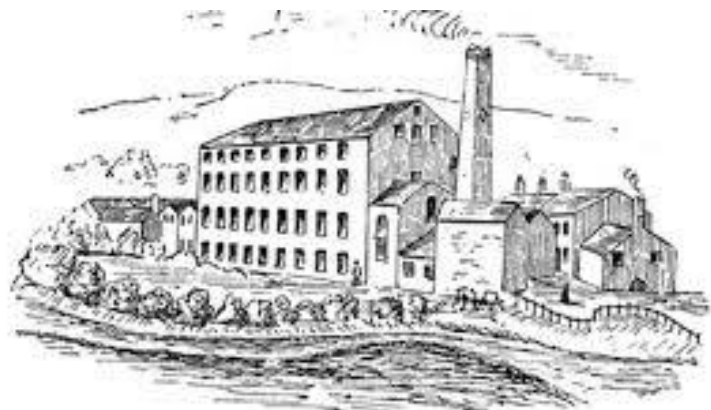
Taxi Drivers, Ride-share Apps, and Gig Work



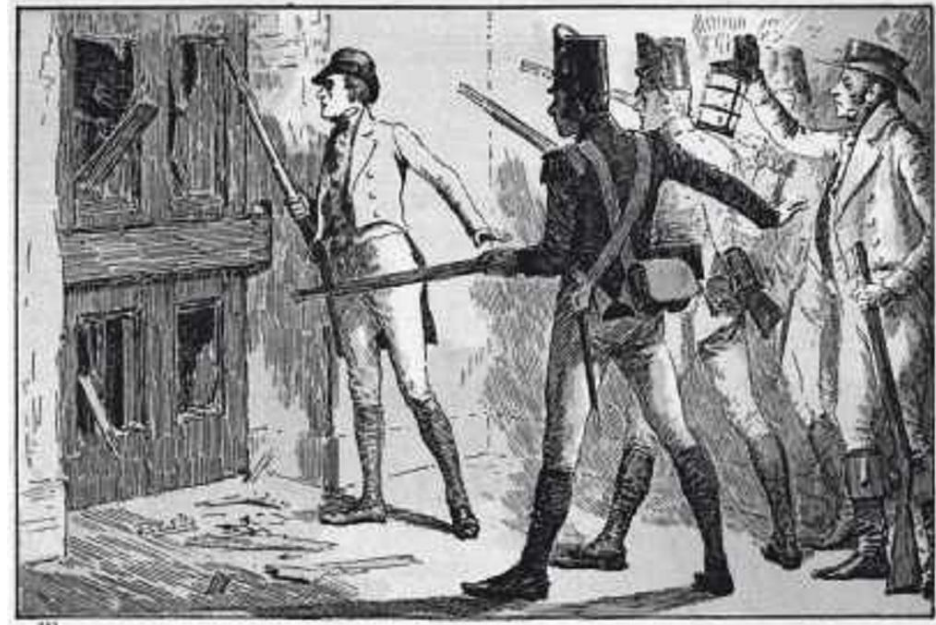
You, Generative AI, and ???



The Battle of Rawfolds Mill



Cartwright's Mill, Rawfolds.



What Motivated the Luddites?



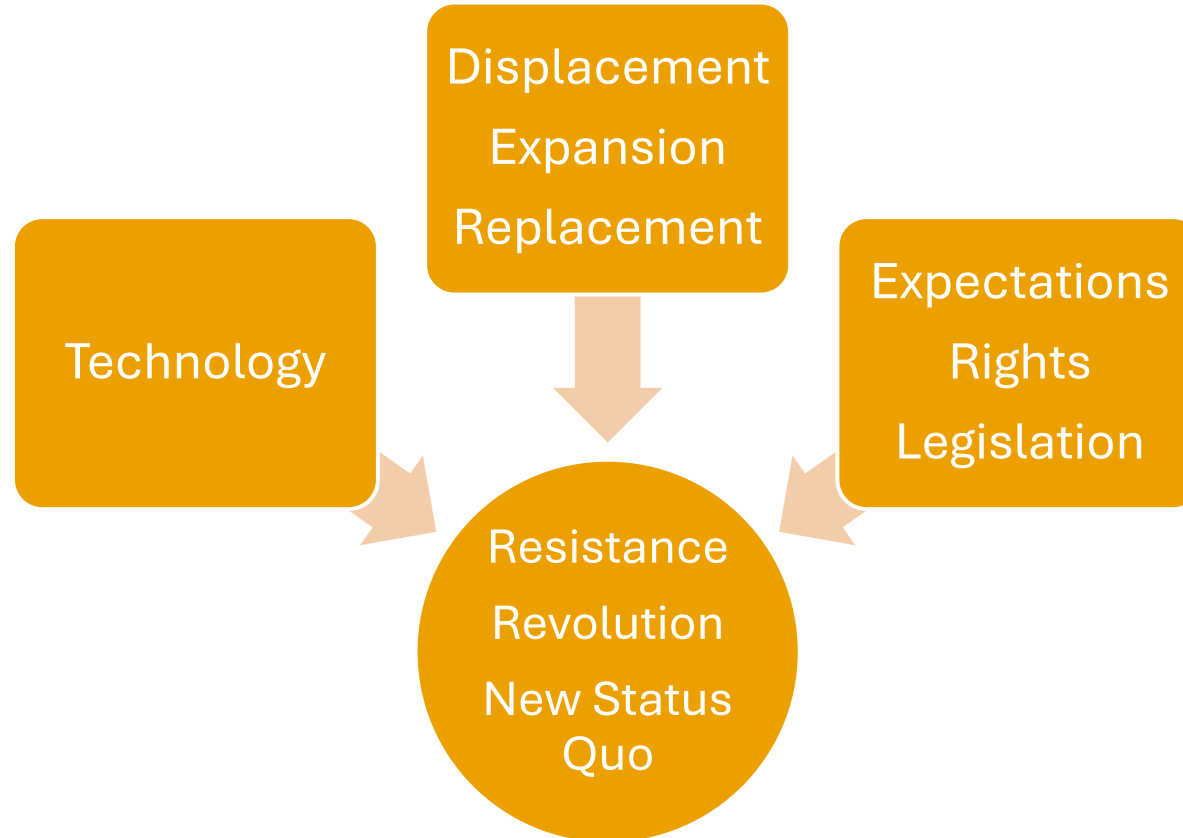
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How did the escalation happen?



- **1799-1800 Combination Acts** – Unions are illegal, so are businesses dealing with one another to fix prices or wages
- **1802-1806 Cloth Workers Petition Parliament**
- **1811 Factory Collusion slashes wages** – 2-3 thousand workers swarm one of the implicated factories and destroy only the wide frames, the first luddite action
- **1812 The Frame Breaking Act** – Breaking or dismantling a machine now punishable by death

How Do We Evaluate Techno-Labor Revolutions?



UberPop Paris



Techno-Labor Revolutions



Employee

- Minimum Wage
- Overtime
- Workers Comp
- Healthcare contributions
- Anti-discrimination protections
- Right to Unionize

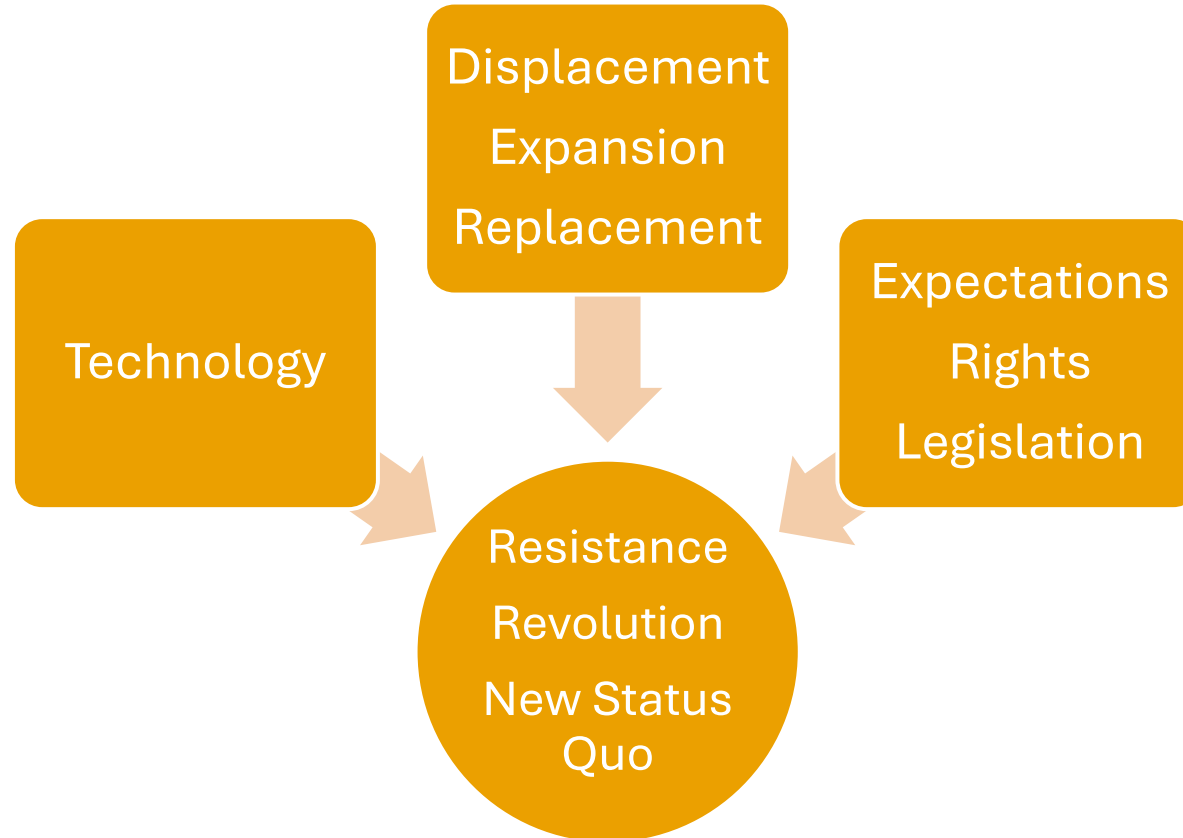
Independent Contractor

- Sets own prices
- Negotiating power with clients
- Discretion over methods and execution
- Right to Refuse

Gig Work

???

How Do We Evaluate Techno-Labor Revolutions?



Techno-Labor Revolutions



	Industrial Revolution	Gig Economy
The Tech	Power Looms	Smartphone Apps
The New Form of Labor	Factory Work	Gig Work
Who is threatened?	Artisans	Taxi drivers
Who fills the need?	Children	Anyone with a license
Legislative Response	Combination & Frame-breaking acts	In Progress... AB 5? Prop 22?

Techno-Labor Revolutions



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What Are You Worried About?



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The Tech	Power Looms	Smartphone Apps	Generative AI
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What Are You Worried About?



Meta to track workers' clicks and keystrokes to train AI

21 April 2026

Kali Hays

Technology reporter

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How AI is changing the nature of entry level work

Mar 26, 2026

MoneyWatch

More companies are pointing to AI as they lay off employees

By Mary Cunningham

Updated on: May 5, 2026 / 5:07 PM EDT / CBS News

What Are You Worried About?



Jun 1st, 2026

Nvidia's Huang Calls AI Jobs Concerns 'Nonsense'

Nvidia's Jensen Huang calls concerns of AI taking jobs "complete nonsense," saying instead that companies are hiring more software engineers due to the abilities of new agentic AI features.

'AI imagineer.' 'Design crafter.' 'Builder.' Why design is suddenly full of Frankenjobs

A new report shows that the design industry is on the cusp of an AI-based role overhaul.

What Will You Be Offered?

Job 1:

\$98,900

9-5 programming job

Job 2:

\$??????

?????



<https://tinyurl.com/embeddedethicsS26>

10-15 minute survey, taking it (or not) won't impact your grade in the class in any way. The teaching team won't know who participates.

Option to provide your **Stanford email address** to receive a **\$10 gift card**, up to the first 800 participants. Compensation once per quarter (SUNet login required).

Questions? Email embeddedethics@stanford.edu

Stanford | Embedded Ethics

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