

# **Liberal Radicalism** **for the Digital Age**

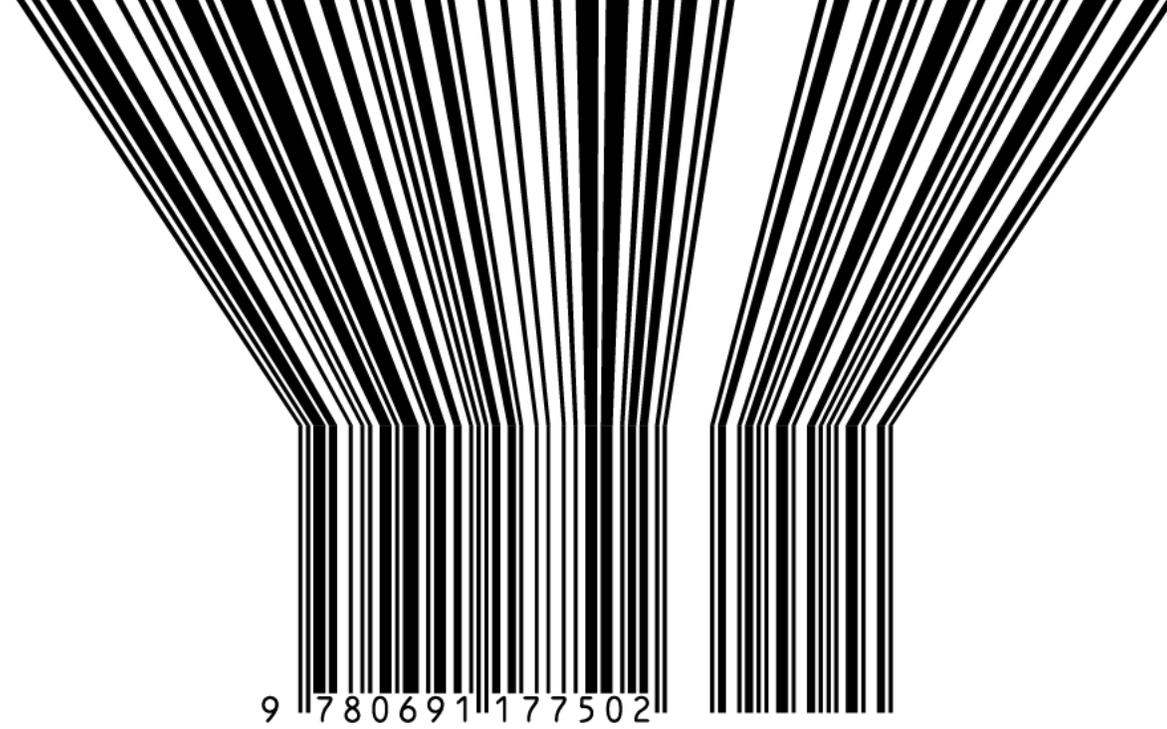


**Jaron Lanier**  
**Microsoft**



**E. Glen Weyl**  
**Microsoft & Princeton**

**Panel Discussion**  
**Bruegel**  
**December 4, 2018**



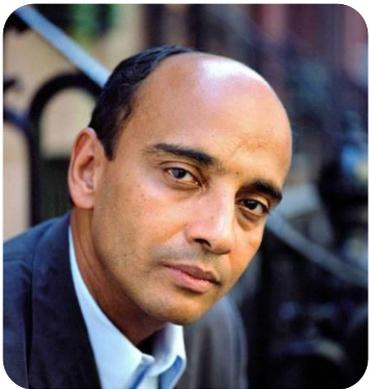
ERIC A. POSNER & E. GLEN WEYL

# RADICAL MARKETS

# Reviving a tradition



# To meet today's crisis



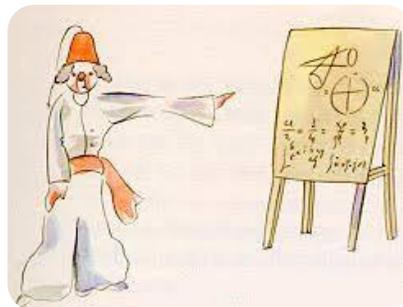
# Liberal



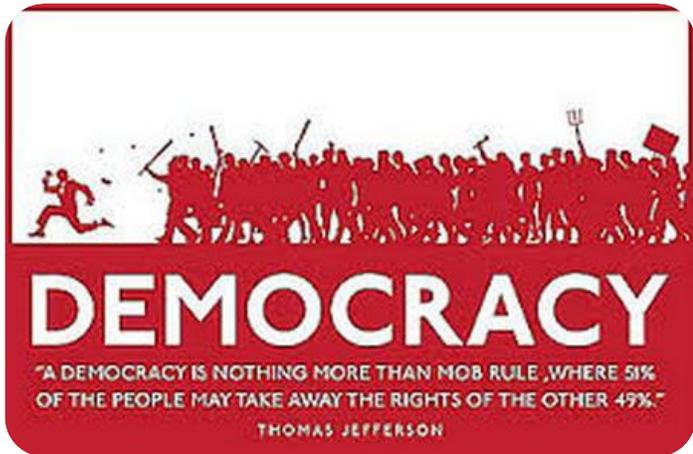
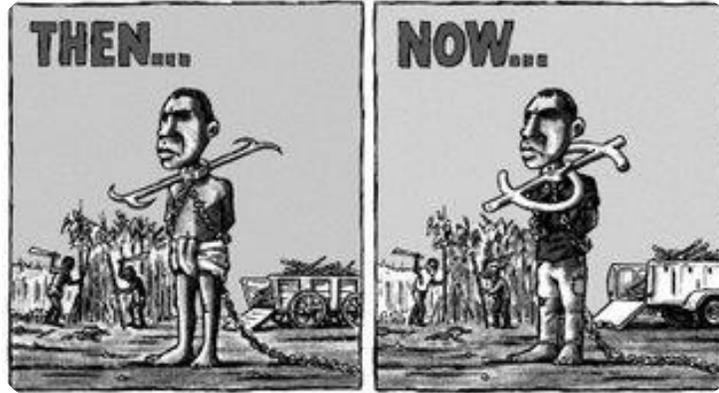
# But confront radical challenges



"From the Depths."



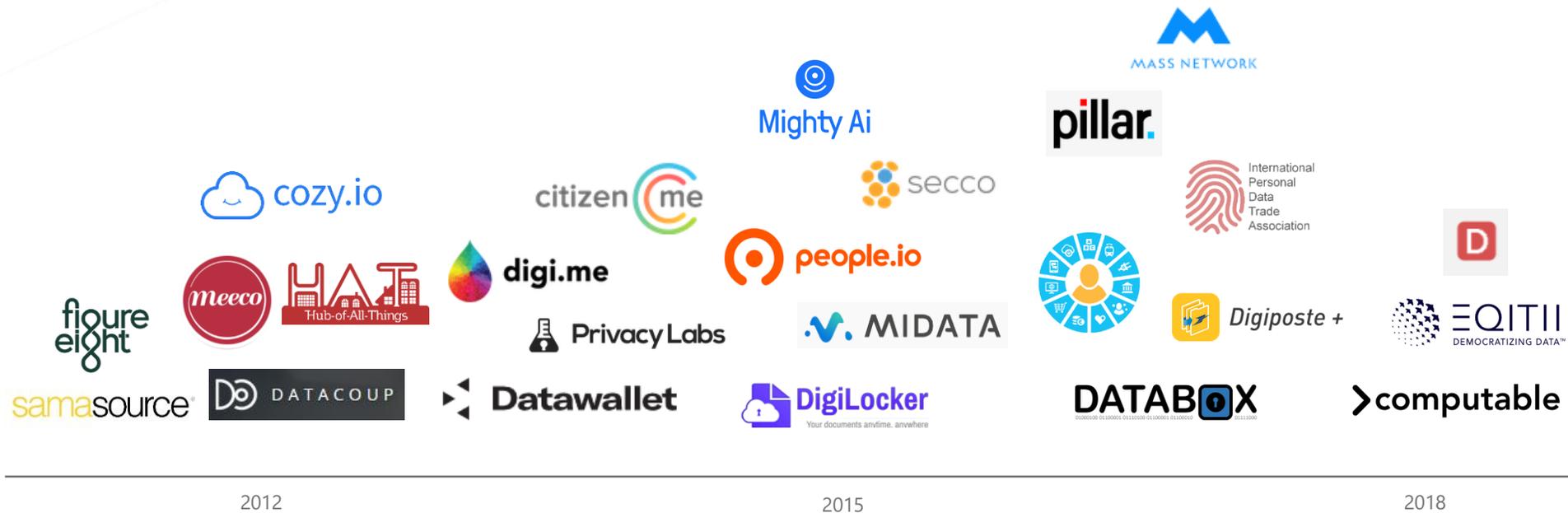
# That stymied superficial liberalism



# To build new philosophy



# But today, narrower canvas: Restoring balance to digital life



# **Data economics and privacy**

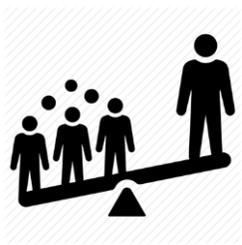
**Attention**

**(Dis)information**

# An Anxious Time For Labor



Fears about future of AI  
and job displacement



Growing inequality



(Autor et al. 2017)

# AI and Productivity

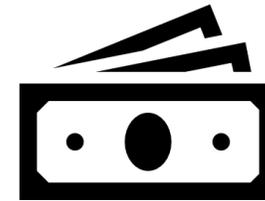
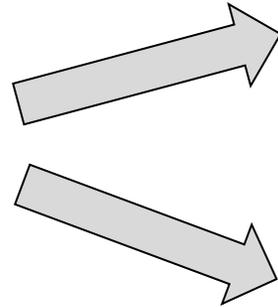
- The “free-data” model has failed to induce the “AI-revolution” in productivity.



SO MUCH OF "AI" IS JUST FIGURING OUT WAYS TO OFFLOAD WORK ONTO RANDOM STRANGERS.

# The High Cost of Free Data

- Root of all of these problems is that returns to data are being treated as payments to capital rather than to labor.





## Data as Capital

1. Data is exhaust to be picked up by whoever is smart enough to make useful
2. AI success mostly driven by algorithms, computational power, brilliant programmers
3. AI will flourish if there are big payoffs to entrepreneurs and innovators
4. AI will displace workers, so either they will work in other areas or we will give them a basic income now that they are useless
5. People will have to find meaning in areas of life other than work and "get over themselves"
6. Individuals are happy to consent to surveillance in exchange for "free stuff", so companies deserve to use their data

vs.

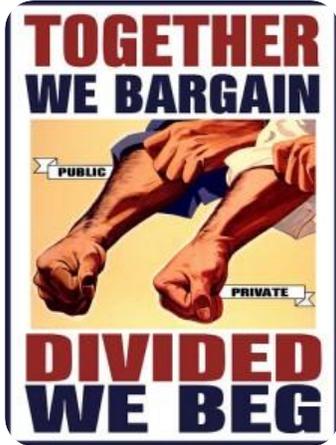


## Data as Labor

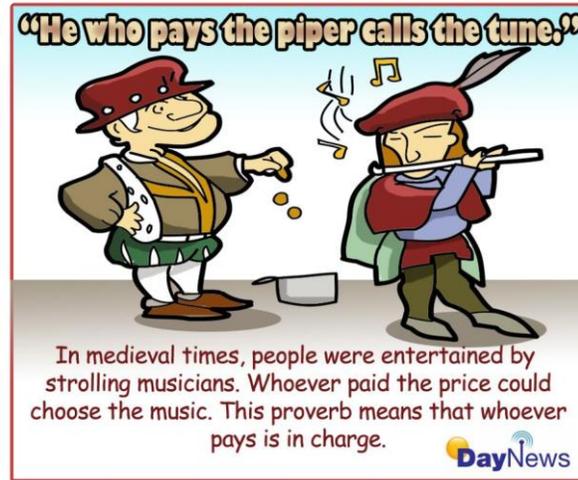
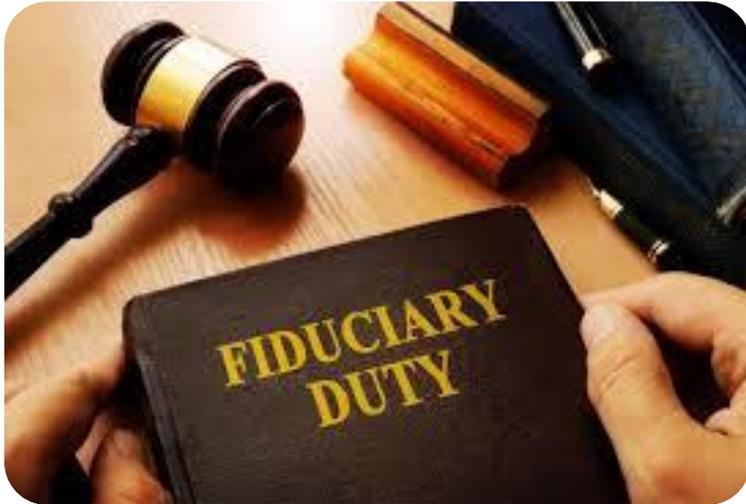
1. Data created by user actions and efforts, so fruits belong first to individual contributors
2. AI is really collective human intelligence, driven by innate knowledge/data in ordinary people
3. AI will flourish if the individual contributors who make it possible have a real economic stake
4. AI is just another production technology that raises individual productivity by allowing people to amplify the value of their data
5. The value of data will support sense of meaning and "digital dignity"
6. Individuals on their own have little bargaining power in face of digital monopolies, must be protected by countervailing power (competition, unions or governments)



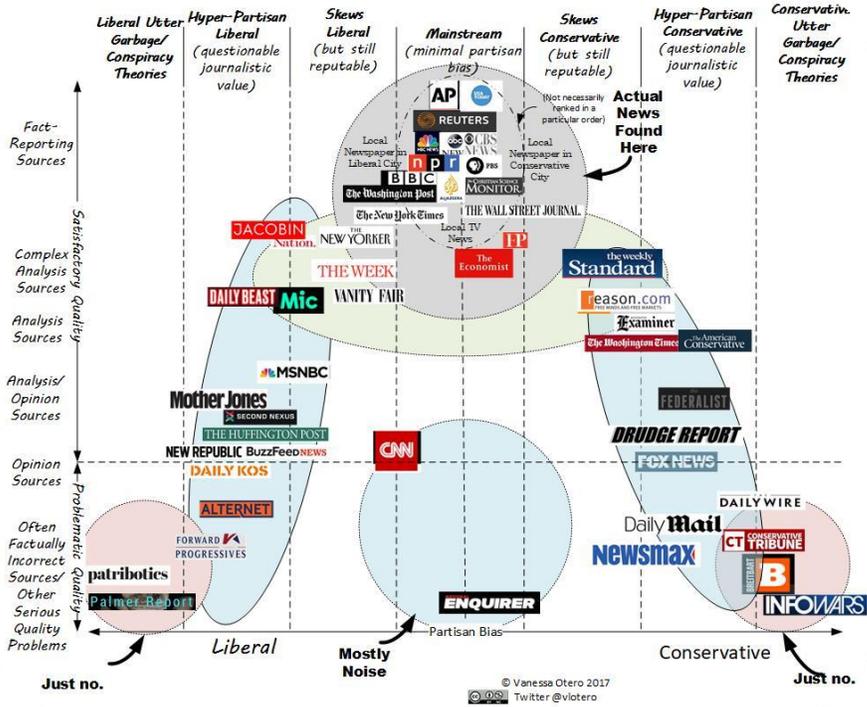
# Mediators of Individual Data (MIDs)



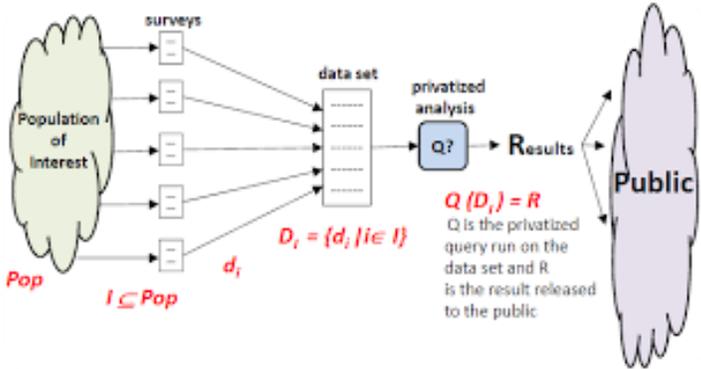
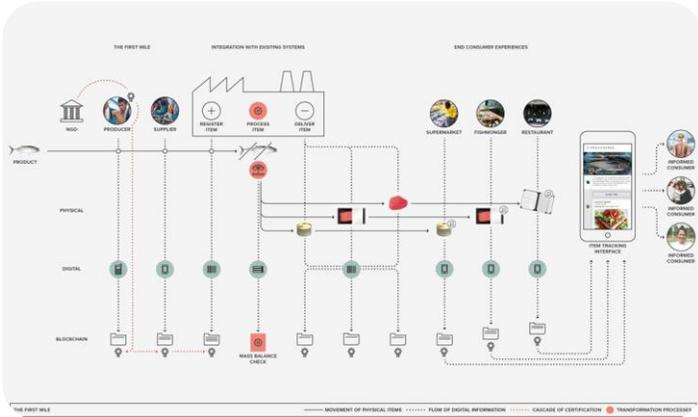
# Fiduciary



# Quality standards



# Inalienable provenance



# Rent sharing

The share of economic output that workers receive has fallen.

Labor Share of Income, 1973–2017



Source: Productivity and Costs, BLS (1973–2017).  
Note: Labor share is defined as the sum of employee and proprietor labor compensation, divided by gross value-added output. Shaded bars indicate recessions.

THE HAMILTON PROJECT  
BROOKINGS



# Competence



# Biological realism



# Cognitive realism



# Longevity



PRE-ICO SALE IS LIVE

15% BONUS ENDS IN

14 : 22 : 24 : 13

Days | Hours | Minutes | Seconds

**TOKEN SALE!**

[Learn More](#)

# Attention



# (Dis)information quality



# Very quickly from theory...

Media coverage is mostly positive...



**NYTimes:** *Your Data Is Crucial to a Robotic Age. Shouldn't You Be Paid for It?*



**The Economist:** *What if people were paid for their data?*

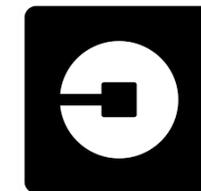
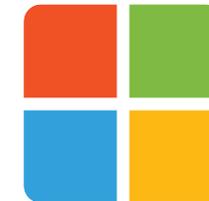


**NPR:** *Dollars for Data*

...with some skepticism

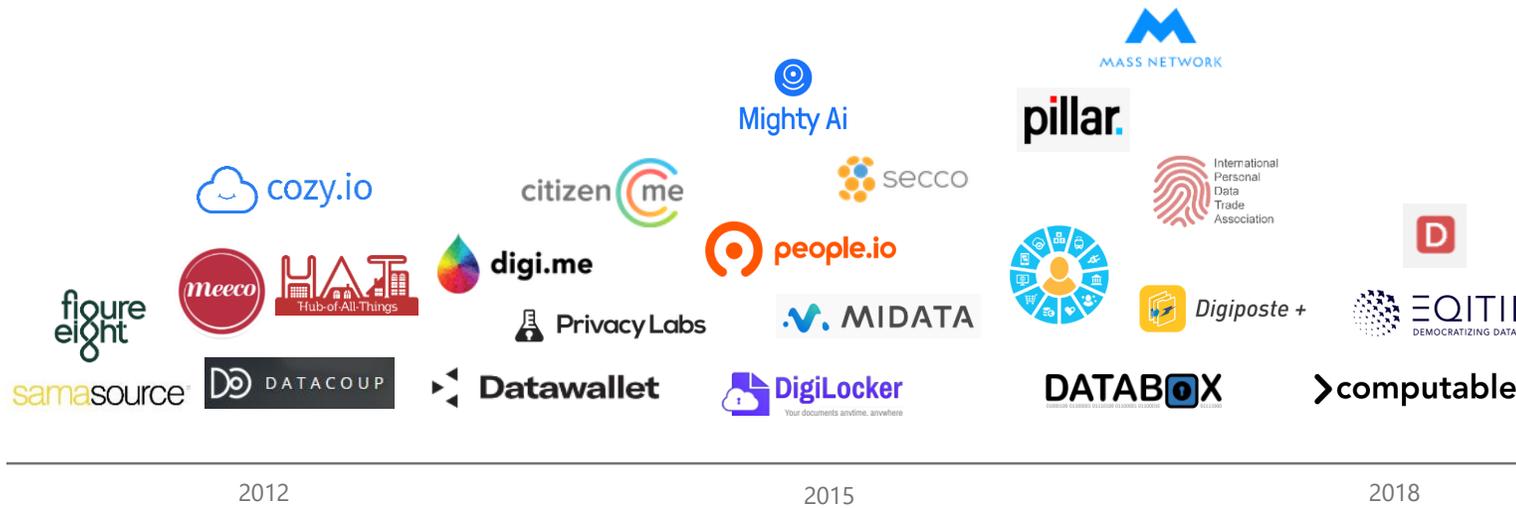
- Why change things if they're not broken?
- Is this a practical idea?
- Aren't you trying to commodify human beings?
- Doesn't information want to be free?

Large institutions begin to weigh in



# MIDs popping up everywhere

Steady increase in startup activity



Some even interesting...

