Algocracy vs. Light Community:
New Challenges for Korean Local Community

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Crises of Korean Local Community

Domestic
- Low Fertility Rate
- Hyper Aging Society
- Job Loss
- Collapse of rural community
- Energy depletion/ Climate Change
- Social minority/
- Generation Competition/ Conflict
- Social polartization/ Inequality
- Central-Local divide/ gap; local regeneration

Global
- Digital revolution and 'Algocracy' threat
- Climate Change
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Unequal Impacts
- Ukraine Crisis

EZ House, Seoul

Renewable Energy, Jeju

Local Food & iCOOP, Goesan

In the face of threats both inside and outside, local residents and community should be rediscovered rather than newly made!

Algocracy

Big Data + Machine Learning = Algocracy
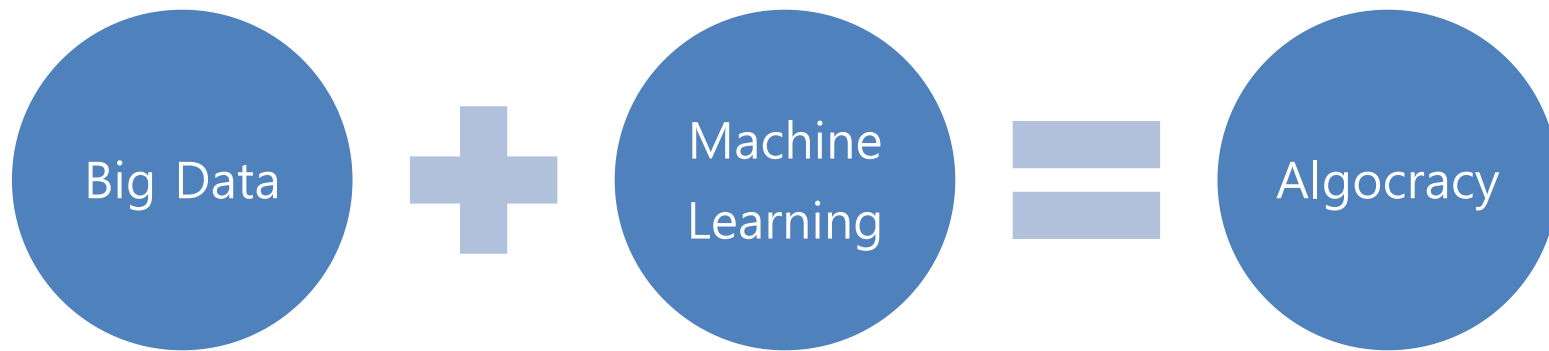
AI   Invisible Algorithms   Human-out-of the loop
   Slaves to algorithms?

Algocracy (J. Danaher 2016)

- Data-mining systems: Relying on extremely large datasets (big data), collected from growing networks of data-monitoring technologies. Humans can be more or less involved in the data-mining process and in the kinds of decisions made on foot of the data-mining process.

- A threat of algocracy: Arising from this sort of epistemic favoring of algocratic systems. Epistemic systems fail to satisfy important legitimacy conditions of general acceptability, reasonable rejectability, and publicity.

- Favoring algocratic governance systems impressed by their greater speed, accuracy and insight. But in favoring them we may end up with systems that are increasingly opaque.

- Trapped in a web of "invisible barbed wire" The algorithmic control systems enhance our autonomy, increase our health and well-being, and improve social outcomes, but we don't have clear sense of how exactly they manage to do this. The result is social spaces that are opaque to human reason.

- Less legitimate decision-making procedures: Less human participation in or less comprehension of those decision-making procedures. Reliance on algocratic systems is a threat to legitimate decision-making procedures.
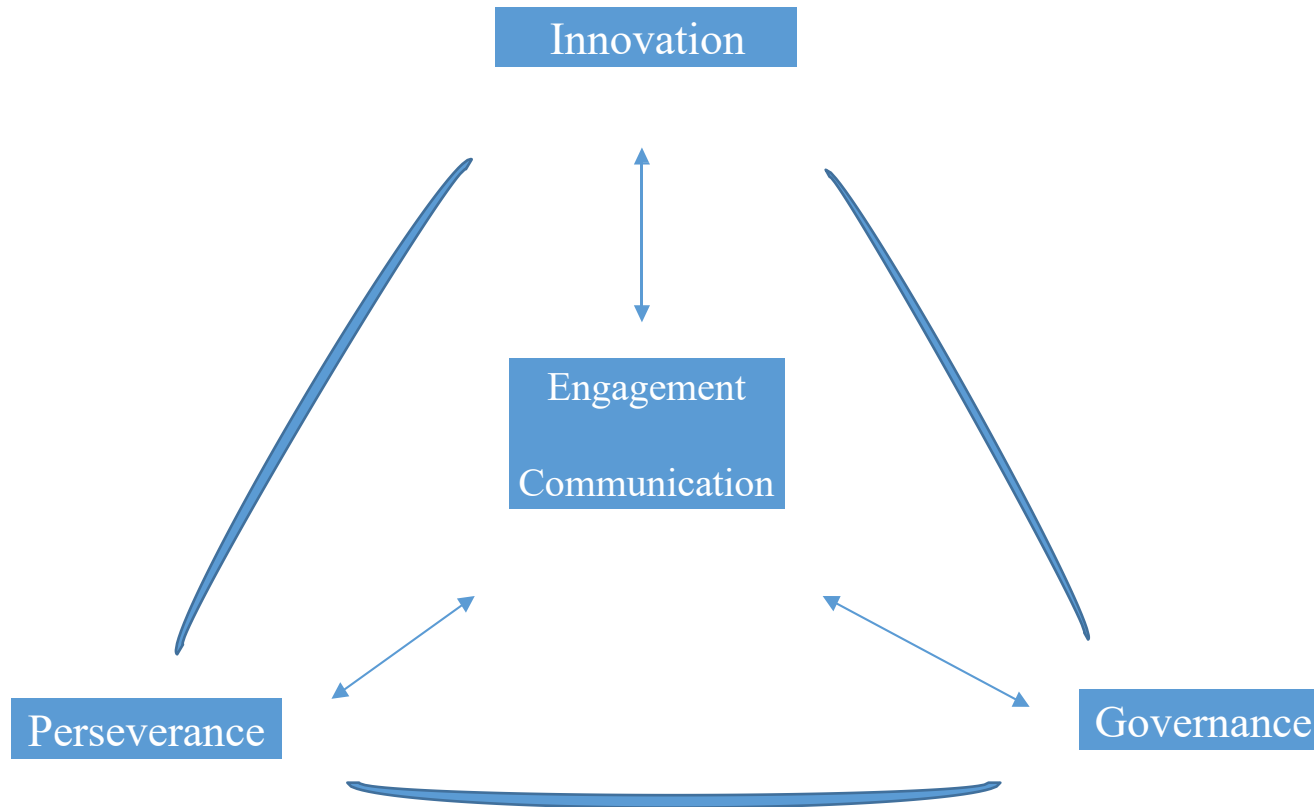
Digital Revolution and Hyper Connected World: Internet, Social Media, & Platforms
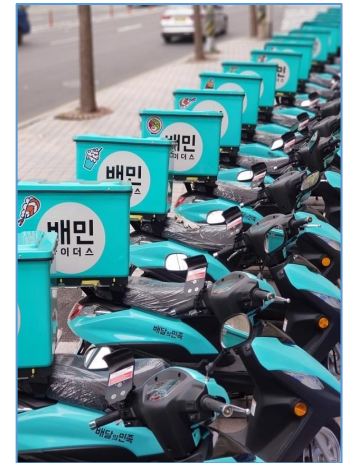
- From Clicktivism to Individual Media

- Sharing Economy vs. Gig workers

- Strugglers, Strivers, and Successors:

Hustle and Gig (A. J. Ravenelle, 2019)

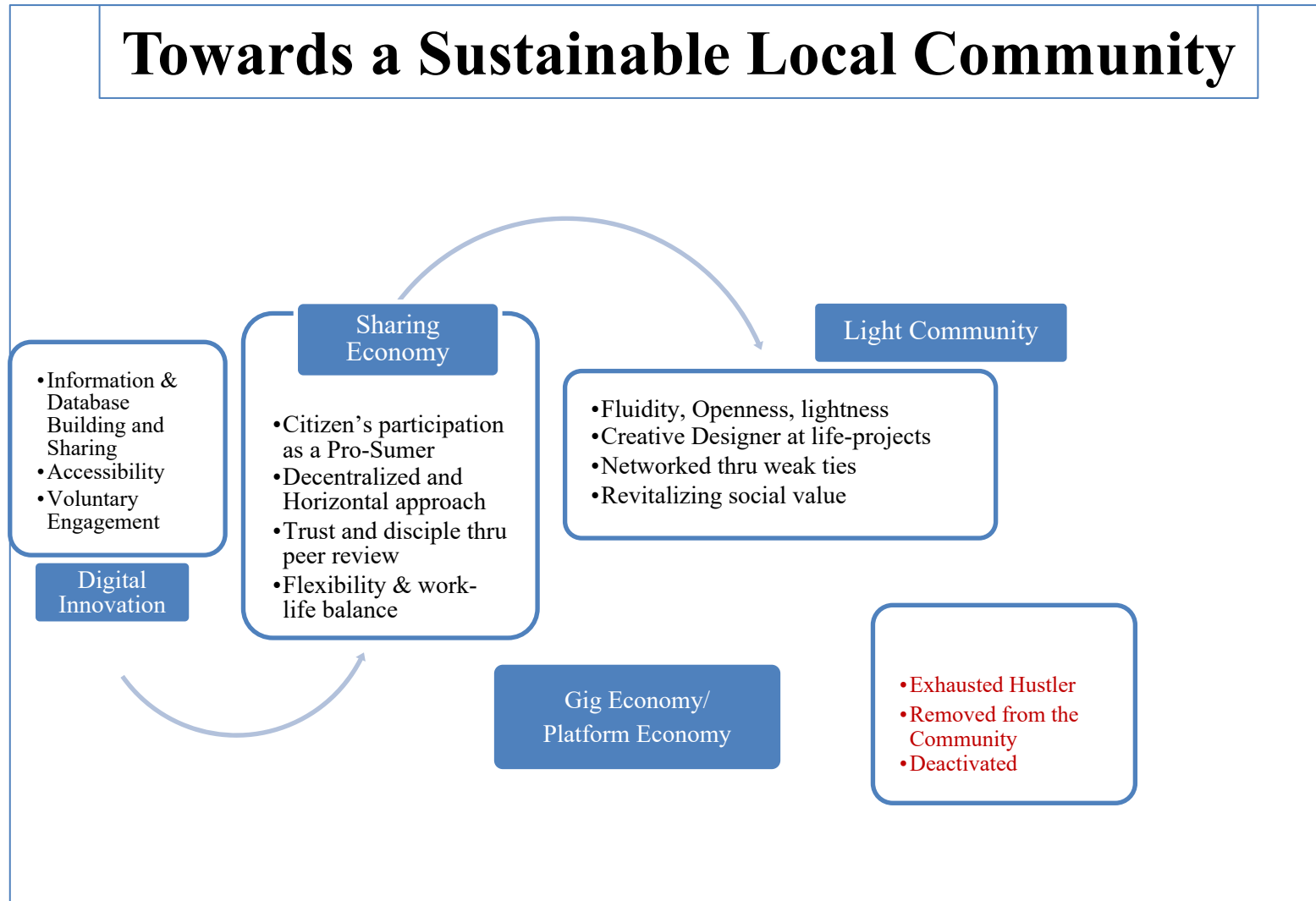- "Mojos" (Mobile Journalists) against "Fake News" (Self-confirmation)
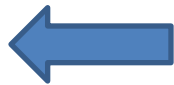
Framework of Improving Local Community

Innovation

Engagement

Communication

Perseverance

Governance

Source: Kong & Lim (2020): p. 30.

New Experiments Towards a Light Community

Towards a Sustainable Local Community

Sharing Economy

Light Community

- Information & Database Building and Sharing
- Accessibility
- Voluntary Engagement

Digital Innovation

- Citizen's participation as a Pro-Sumer
- Decentralized and Horizontal approach
- Trust and disciple thru peer review
- Flexibility & work-life balance

- Fluidity, Openness, lightness
- Creative Designer at life-projects
- Networked thru weak ties
- Revitalizing social value

Gig Economy/ Platform Economy

- Exhausted Hustler
- Removed from the Community
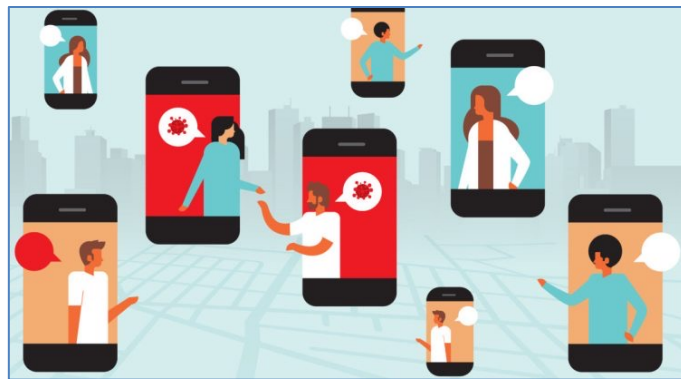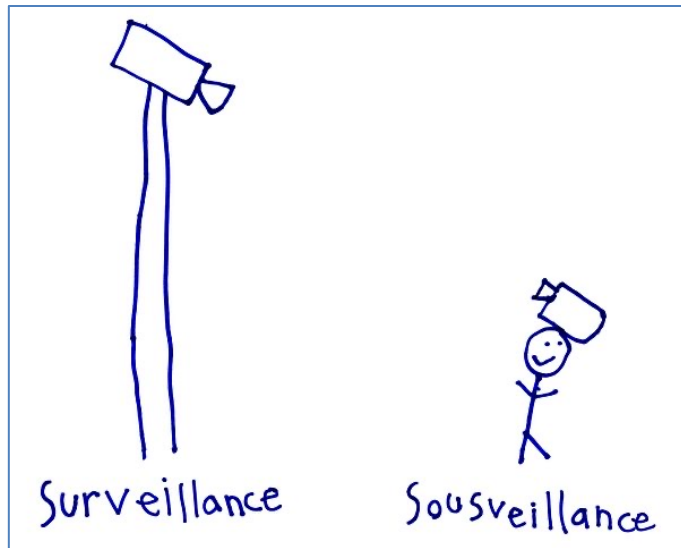- Deactivated

Light Community Embracing Gig Economy

Source: www.joongang.co.kr/article/23419421#home)
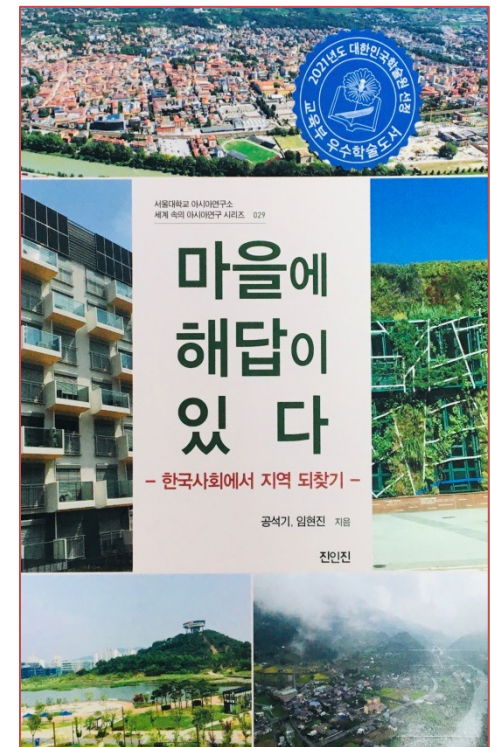
Embracing Sousveillance Technology

Radical Transparency

- If the problem with big data algorithms is the constant monitoring and surveillance of our activities by economic and political elites
- Turn the surveillance technology back on those economic and political elites. (Google glass, and similar wearable monitoring devices)

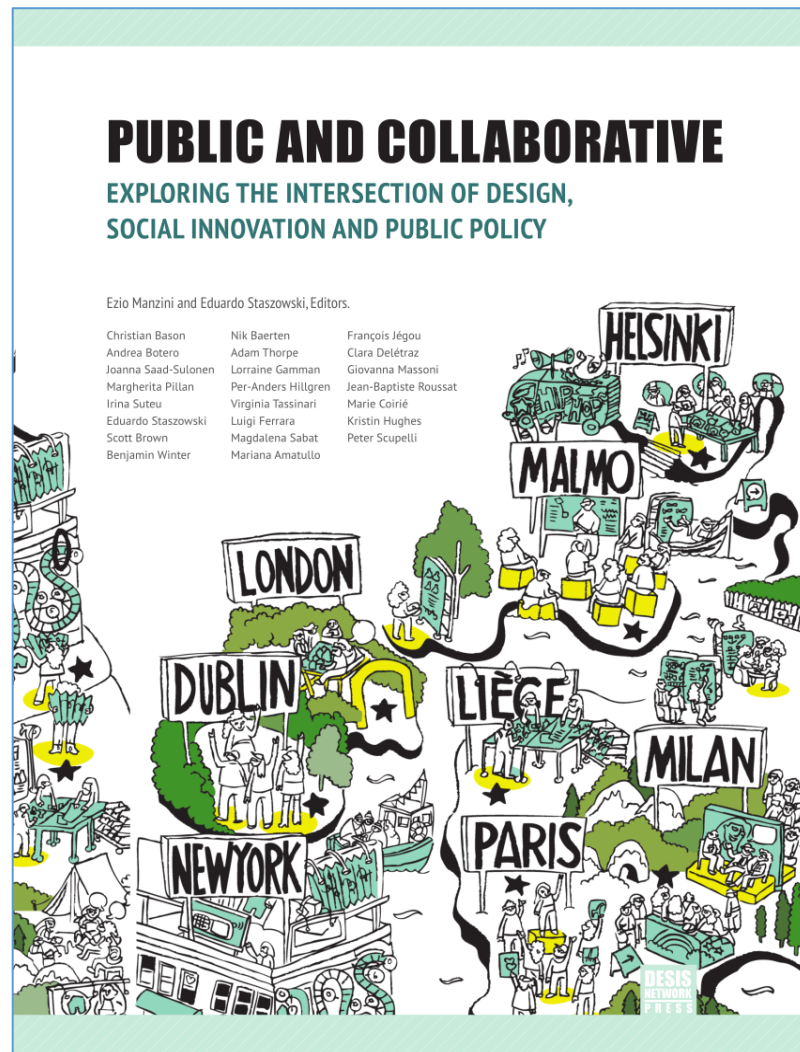- Balancing Surveillance with Privacy
- Decentralizing Data

*Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation (*Ezio Manzini, 2015, MIT)

Manzini e , staszowski e , the book public and collaborative (Nov 27, 2013)

Digital Innovation and Platform economy

Global Inequality, Migration and Tribal Conflicts

Platform Economy Boom and Challenges
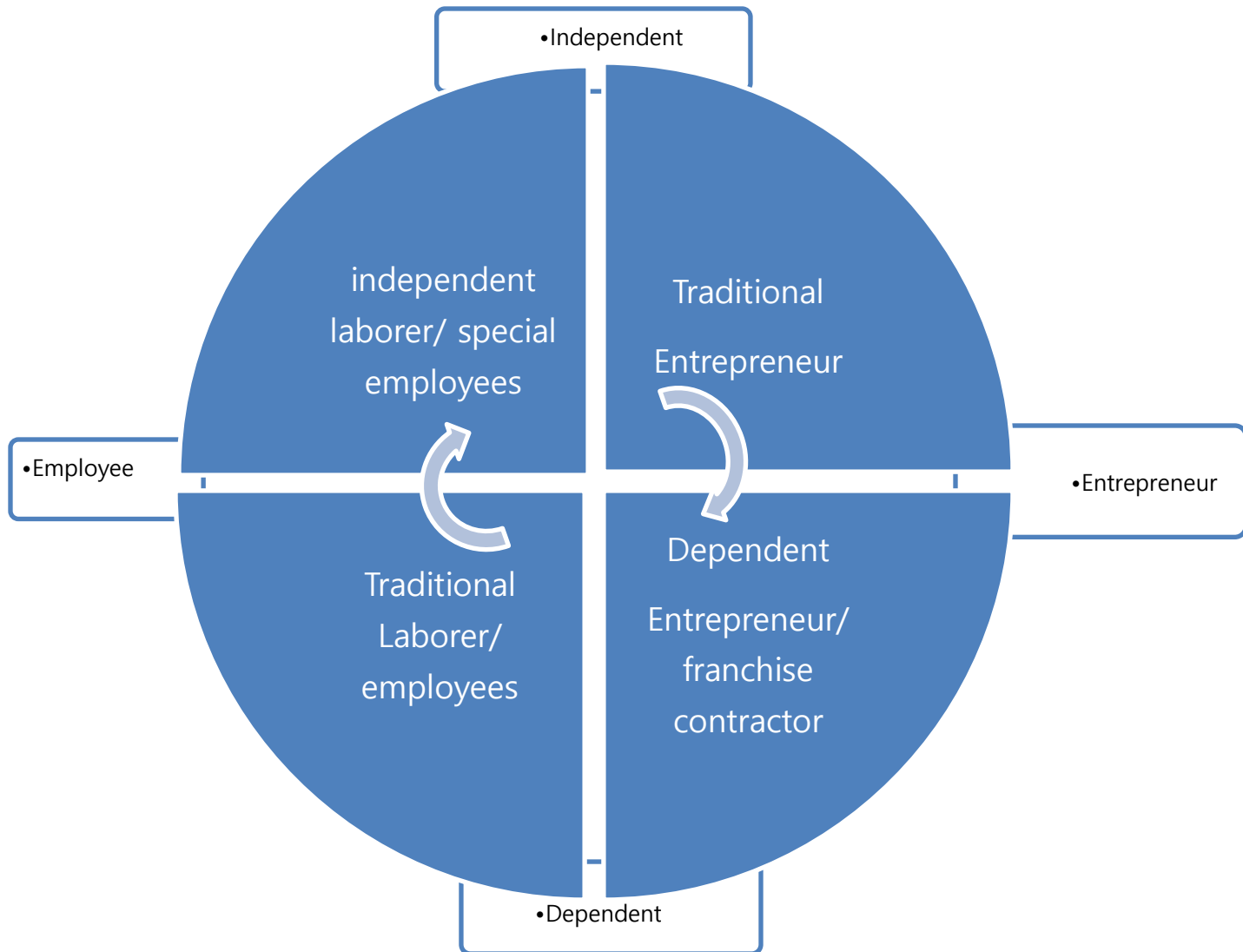
Increasing Prosumers	Diversified Labor (definition)
Horizontal and Scattered Approach	Social Safety Net for Platform workers
Reputation based Trust building/ Regulation	Divide, Dislocation, and Disengagement

Figure 2.1
Sharing economy platforms across a few industries, 2015.

Source: Sundarrarajan, Arun. 2016. *The Sharing Economy*. Cambridge: MIT Press: p. 50

Divided Labor Market in S. Korea
A Big Surge of Dependent Entrepreneur and Independent Laborer

- Independent
- Employee
- Entrepreneur
- Dependent

independent laborer/ special employees

Traditional Entrepreneur

Traditional Laborer/ employees

Dependent Entrepreneur/ franchise contractor

Local Resiliency Through Heyground:
Co-working Spaces for Changemakers

Implications and Challenges Ahead

- Digital globalization and spreading of the sharing economy
  - ✓ The socially underprivileged and minorities lead to labor exploitation and exclusion from the community.
  - ✓ How to include platform economy workers (gig workers) into local community?
  - ✓ Embracing Sousveillance Technology (bottom-up approach)

- Post-COVID19 and Ukraine Crisis Impacts
  - ✓ Hasty diagnosis and prescription of transition to a "new normal" society
  - ✓ The 'light community' experiment is not a response for a new normal society, but seeks a transition to a normal society

Frame Contentions towards
A Sustainable Local Community

Community Perspective	Capitalist Perspective
Abundant Nature	Tourism and attractive sites
Self-reliance	Productivity
Collaboration	Competition
Past and Future	Cliché past/
Conservation	Objects to be used
Eco-system/ Community	Contribution to Economy

Divided Value Conflicts around
A Just Sustainable Local Community

Source: theschoolofnews.com/archives/5735/sns

Authors' Short-Bio

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- Suk-Ki Kong is Research Professor of Asia Center at Seoul National University. He studied sociology and received B.A., M.A. from the Department of Sociology at SNU and his Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology at Harvard University. He is also Adjunct Professor of Graduate School of Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Kyung Hee University.

- His major fields of research are social movements, human rights, civil society and social economy. Here are recently published books and articles as follow:

  Local Community Matters: Reclaiming Light Community in South Korea (Zininzin, 2020; with H. Lim, in Korean)

  Bridging the Gap between Neighborhood and Citizenship (Zininzin, 2017; with H. Lim, in Korean)

  "Civic Engagement in the Energy Transition since Fukushima and its Impact on Renewable Energy Policy Competition in South Korea," *Korea Observer* Vol. 51(3): 463-483 (2020; with H. Lim).

  "Politics of Cosmopolitan Citizenship: The Korean Engagement in the Global Justice Movements," *Citizenship Studies* Vol. 16 (1): 69-84. (2012).

  "Measuring National Human Rights: A Reflection on Korean Experiences," *Human Rights Quarterly Vol.* 34(4):986-1020. (with C. Chung and J. Koo, 2012).