Confronting Dystopia
The New Technological Revolution and the Future of Work
Edited by Eva Paus

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In Confronting Dystopia, a distinguished group of scholars analyze the implications of the ongoing technological revolution for jobs, working conditions, and income. Focusing on the economic and political implications of AI, digital connectivity, and robotics for both the Global North and the Global South, they move beyond diagnostics to seek solutions that offer better lives for all. Their analyses of the challenges of technology are placed against the backdrop of three decades of rapid economic globalization. The two in tandem are producing the daunting challenges that analysts and policymakers must now confront.

As Confronting Dystopia shows, we are on the eve of—indeed we are already amid—a technological revolution that will impact profoundly the livelihoods of people everywhere in the world, and which portends a vast displacement of human labor.

Across a broad and deep set of topics, the contributors explore whether the need for labor will inexorably shrink in the coming decades, how pressure on employment will impact human well-being, and what new institutional arrangements—a new social contract, for example, will be needed to sustain livelihoods. They evaluate such proposals as a basic income, universal social services, and investments that address key global challenges and create new jobs.

Eva Paus is Professor of Economics and Carol Hoffmann Collins Director of the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives at Mount Holyoke College. She is the author of Foreign Investment, Development, and Globalization: Can Costa Rica become Ireland?

Contributors: Vandana Chandra, Mignon Duffy, Dieter Ernst, Vincent Ferraro, Martin Ford, Juliana Martinez Franzoni, Irmgard Nubler, Robert Pollin, David Rueda, Diego Sanchez-Ancochea, Guy Standing, Stefan Thewissen.

“Confronting Dystopia is a well-executed volume on an important topic, with wide-ranging coverage of both the Global North and the Global South. The contributors present original interpretations as well as a range of insightful policy prescriptions. The result is a significant contribution to the literature on our economic future.”
—James Boyce, University of Massachusetts Amherst

“Confronting Dystopia offers a rich, multidimensional analysis of the complex challenges posed by digitization, robots, and AI as they affect different countries and countries at different levels of economic development and per capita GDP.”
—Eileen Appelbaum, University of Leicester

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