This presentation synthesizes Dr. Ettlinger’s research on conditions of precariousness in relation to an emergent apparatus of production that pivots on novel approaches to innovation, and relatedly, on open networks to access dispersed knowledges. By the end of the 20th century and continuing apace in the new millennium, firms have embraced hypercompetitive strategies that rely in part on scarcely waged and even unwaged, skilled labor. Consequently, beyond signaling a considerable step beyond ‘low wages,’ class and other lines amongst workers have blurred and circumstances render labor desperate in new ways regarding objectified conditions as well as subjectivity. She will explain the new system, how it evolved, and how she directs her critique towards the development of a critical agenda.