Partisan, poet, translator, critic, sociologist and Marxist intellectual, Franco Fortini witnessed the dematerialization of labor in Italy from the late 1940s and the early 1980s. His essays reveal the production of the workforce for and by industrial capitalism, and the shift in the place of the intellectual from outside the productive structure to waged workers. His study of “proletarization” of the intellectual worker predicted the present conditions of cognitive capitalism in Italy and globally.