PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME (6.6.2014)

“Work and Compulsion: Coerced Labour in Domestic, Service, Agricultural, Factory and Sex Work, ca. 1850-2000s”

25 – 28 September 2014
Bildungshaus Jägermayrhof, Römerstraße 98, 4020 Linz, Austria

Simultaneous Interpretation: English – German

Objectives

The conference focuses on the exploitation of human labour in the range of forced labour and debt bondage, which contrary to chattel slavery, have received little scholarly attention. In spite of the gradual abolition of slavery (understood as the legal ownership of humans) in the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, other forms of coerced labour persisted in most regions of the world. Indeed, while most nations increasingly condemned the maintenance of slavery and slave trade, they tolerated labour relationships that involved violent control, economic exploitation through the appropriation of labour power, restriction of workers’ freedom of movement and fraudulent debt obligations. Hence the conference deals with historical situations of coerced labour worldwide.

The aims of this conference are five-fold:

1.) To write a global and comparative history of the political-institutional and gender structures, the economics of and working conditions within coerced labour, as well as the evolution of forced labour (internal or cross-border) migration of male and female workers and the role played by intermediaries. In short, the whole praxis of coerced labour in colonized segments of the world, core countries, post-imperial states, new industrial economies and other low-income countries.

2.) To problematize (the increasing) forced labour and labour mobility in colonial territories, in Africa and Asia in particular, and to relate them to developments in intra-European labour regulation and regimentation and to the expansion of North Atlantic capital across the world.

3.) To deal with the twentieth-century forms of coerced labour, whether through confinement to labour camps or debt bondage of individual production and service workers to creditors (for the costs of the voyage) or to individual employers (for the duration of their stay).

4.) To question whether the application of the forced-labour model to systemic employer-employee relations under constraining circumstances is justified, or whether the ILO’s differentiation between forced labour and sub-standard or exploitative working conditions can/should be maintained. These issues are related to the naming and conceptualization of “force”, “coercion” and “consent”, as well as to the utility of the notions of “human trafficking” and “modern-day slavery”.

5.) To explore the experiences and aspects of human agency or resistance by forced/bonded workers, organizing initiatives and the silence or activity of non-state actors such as trade unions and NGOs.
Thursday, 25 September 2014

9.00 – 22.00 Registration of the participants at the Jägermayrhof

12.00 – 14.00 Meeting of the ITH Board and the International Scientific Committee

14.00 – 14.30 Break

14.30 – 16.30 General Assembly of the ITH Member Institutes

17.00 – 17.30 Aperitif

17.30 – 18.00 Conference Opening by the ITH President, Berthold Unfried, and representatives of our cooperation partner

18.00 – 19.15 Keynote Lecture: Michael Zeuske: No End after the End: The Continuing Presence of Coerced Labour after the Official Abolition of Slavery in the North. A Global Historical Perspective (Universität zu Köln)

19.15 – 20.15 Welcome Reception / Dinner

20.15 – 21.15 Award of the René Kuczynski Prize 2014

Friday, 26 September 2014

9.00 – 9.30 Introduction into the conference by Dirk Hoerder (Salzburg), Silke Neunsinger (Stockholm), Magaly Rodriguez Garcia (Brussels)


10.15 – 11.45 Panel I: Coerced Labour before World War II
Chair and comment: Silke Neunsinger

- Dörte Lerp: "Ruling Classes and Serving Races“ Segregated Agrarian Labour Regimes in the German Empire, 1884-1914 (Universität zu Köln)
- Nicola Pizzolato: "As Much in Bondage as They Were Before": Unfree Labour during the New Deal, 1935-1945 (University of London)

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 Panel II: Volition, Coercion and Intermediation in Sex Work Migration
Chair and comment: Magaly Rodriguez Garcia (Brussels)

- Vicky Crinis: Women, Work and Trafficking in Colonial Malaya (University of Wollongong)
- Julia Laite: “Despicable Ruffians”: Masculinity, Criminality, and Trafficking in the Atlantic World, ca. 1880-1912 (University of London)
- Julia Martinez: Trafficked and Deported Out: Denying Consent to Asian Women and Girls in the Colonial Sex Industry (University of Wollongong)
- Adelheid Pichler & Jürgen Nautz: Ritual Debt Bondage: Continuities Between Old (Transatlantic) Slavery and Modern Slavery (Universität Wien)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break
16.00 – 18.00 **Panel III: Convict Labour**
Chair and comment: David Mayer (Amsterdam/Vienna)
- Jyoti Bhosale: *The Policy/Political Economy of Reformation in 20th Century British Colonial India* (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad)
- Christian De Vito: *Convict Labour and Convict Circulation in the Americas in the Long 19th Century, 1760s-1898. Comparative and Entangled Perspectives* (University of Leicester)
- Joël Michel: *Convict Labour from Repressive Technique to Economic Asset. The Examples of the American South and French Algeria, 1880-1920* (Assemblée Nationale, Paris)

18.00 – 19.00 Dinner

19.30 – 21.30 Public event with the Chamber of Labour and trade unions (in German) / Social event for persons not attending

**Saturday, 27 September 2014**

8.30 – 10.00 **Panel IV: Unfree Labour during the Second World War**
Chair and comment: Alexander Prenninger (Salzburg)
- David Palmer: *Labour Democracy/Labour Slavery: World War II Shipyard Workers in the Ports of Philadelphia and Nagasaki* (Flinders University, Adelaide)
- Robert Sommer: *Forced Sex Labour in Nazi Concentration Camps* (Berlin)
- Anika Walke: *There was no work, we worked only for the Germans*: Ghetto Labor and Alienation in the German-occupied Soviet Territories (Washington University, St. Louis)

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break

10.30 – 12.30 **Panel V: Unfree Labour in the 'free' Capitalist World**
Chair and comment: Marcel van der Linden (Amsterdam)
- Rossana Cillo: *Immigrant Workers in Italian Agriculture between Coercion and Resistence* (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)
- S. E. Gialis, et al.: *Of Strawberries and Coerced Labour: Studying the Agency of Immigrant Workers against Formal Working Arrangements under a Labour Geography’s Perspective* (University of Georgia, Athens (USA), Elliniko Anichto Panepistimio, Patras)
- Siobhan McGrath & Kendra Strauss: *Workers’ Freedom as Workers’ Power* (Durham University / Simon Fraser University, Burnaby)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.30 **Panel VI: National and International Policy on Unfree Labour**
Chair and comment: Susan Zimmermann (Budapest/Vienna)
- Norbert Cyrus: *The Demand Side of Human Trafficking – a Genealogical Analysis of an Explanatory Argument in Historical and Current Debates* (Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung)
- Christine Molfenter: *Forced Labour, the Implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and the State of Contemporary India* (Universität Heidelberg)
- Mahua Sarkar: *Producing Precariousness: The Un-Freedom of Migrant Labour as an Instituted Process* (Binghamton University, New York / Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)
- Sam Scott: *Re-)Defining the Problem: Forced Labour as a Form of Work-Based Harm* (University of Gloucestershire)
Nicole J. Siller: "Modern-day Slavery": The Legal Tug-of-War between Globalization & Fragmentation (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 19.30 **Panel VII: Doctoral Research on Forms of Coerced Labour globally** (I)
Chair and comment: Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (Wageningen)

- Justin F. Jackson: *The U.S. Army and Forced Road Labour in the American Colonial Philippines, 1899-1907* (Columbia University, New York)
- Christina Pruett Hermann: *Contradictions of Freedom: Contract, Compulsion, and Convict Servitude in the American State of Louisiana* (Michigan State University, East Lansing)
- Elena Smolarz: *Spatial and Social Mobility of Russian Slaves in Central Asia in the 19th Century* (Universität Bonn)
- Sven Van Melkebeke: *Forced Labour and Rural Agency in the Coffee Plantation-Economy of the Kivu in the Interwar Years* (Universiteit Gent)

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**Sunday, 28 September 2014**

8.30 – 10.30 **Panel VIII: Doctoral Research on Forms of Coerced Labour globally** (II)
Chair and comment: Christian de Vito (Leicester)

- Sonja Hinsch: *Who are the people who don’t work? Production of Work and Non-Work in Forced-Labour Facilities and Workfare Programmes in Austria, 1918-1938* (Universität Wien)
- Lisa Carstensen: *Modern Slave Labour in Brazil at the Intersection of Production, Migration and Resistance Networks* (Universität Kassel)
- Geetisha Dasgupta: *Quarantining Tea Labour in India: Extending Conditions of Bondage under Post-Colonial Time* (Binghamton University, New York)
- Johanna Neuhauser: *International Mobility or Forced Labour? The Incorporation of Trafficking Discourses in Narratives of Brazilian Sex Workers* (Universität Kassel)

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30 **Panel VIII: Doctoral Research on Forms of Coerced Labour globally** (II)
Chair: Christian de Vito (Leicester)

- Giselle Sakamoto Souza Vianna: *Coercion and Formal Freedom in Contemporary Slavery in Brazil: Concepts under Dispute*
- Victor Trofimov: *Coerced Labour among Romanian and Bulgarian Male Sex Workers in Berlin as a Case for the Broader Sexual Exploitation Agenda* (Europea-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)
- Julia Harnoncourt: *Trabalho Escravo in today’s Brazil* (Universität Wien)

12.30 – 13.30 **Concluding Debate**

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch and **Departure**