



## PROGRAMME (23.9.2014)

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

**25 – 28 September 2014**

**AK-Bildungshaus Jägermayrhof, Römerstraße 98, A-4020 Linz, Austria**

***Simultaneous Interpretation: English – German***

50<sup>th</sup> Linz Conference, organized by the International Conference of Labour and Social History and the Chamber of Labour of Upper Austria, kindly supported by the trade unions PRO-GE and GPA-djp, the Provincial Government of Upper Austria and the City of Linz.

#### **Preparatory Group**

Co-ordinators: Dirk Hoerder (Salzburg), Silke Neunsinger (Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek, Stockholm), Magaly Rodríguez García (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
Marcel van der Linden (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam)  
for the ITH: Berthold Unfried, Eva Himmelstoss, Lukas Neissl

#### **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 venue
- 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
- 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 by the Major of Linz
- 20.15 – 21.15      Award of the **René Kuczynski Prize 2014** for outstanding publications in the field of social and economic history

## Friday, 26 September 2014

- 9.00 – 9.15      **Introduction** into the conference by Dirk Hoerder (Salzburg), Silke Neunsinger (Stockholm), Magaly Rodríguez García (Brussels)
- 9.15 – 10.15      Magaly Rodríguez García: **Introductory Keynote on Definitions and Concepts** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- 10.15 – 12.15      **Panel I: The politics of coerced labour in agriculture and industry across the globe**  
Chair and comment: Silke Neunsinger (Stockholm)
- Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo & José Pedro Monteiro: *Reforming Empire? International Institutions and the Evolution of the Portuguese Native Labour System, 1875-1975* (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
  - 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)
  - David Palmer: *Labour Democracy/Labour Slavery: World War II Shipyard Workers in the Ports of Philadelphia and Nagasaki* (University of Melbourne)
- 12.30 – 14.00      Reception by the Governor of Upper Austria
- 14.00 – 15.30      **Panel II: Volition, Coercion and Intermediation in Sex Work Migration**  
Chair and comment: Magaly Rodríguez García (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)
- Adelheid Pichler: *Ritual Debt Bondage: Continuities Between Old (Transatlantic) Slavery and Modern Slavery* (Universität Wien)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 **Panel III: Convict Labour**

Chair and comment: David Mayer (Amsterdam/Vienna)

- Jyoti Bhosale: *The Policy/Political Economy of Reformation in 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Colonial India* (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad)
- Christian G. De Vito: *Convict Labour in Colonial and Post-Colonial Spanish America, 1760s-1898. Comparative Perspectives* (University of Leicester)
- Kelvin Santiago-Valles: *Forced Labor in Colonial Penal Institutions across the Spanish, U.S., British, French Atlantic, 1870s-1920s* (Binghamton University, New York)

17.45 – 18.45 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

10.00 – 11.30 **Panel IV: 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 Resistance* (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)
- Luis F. B. Plascencia: *State-Sanctioned Coercion: Agricultural Contract Labor Across Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico and the United States, 1909-2013* (Arizona State University, Tempe)
- Siobhán McGrath & Kendra Strauss: *Workers' Freedom as Workers' Power* (Durham University / Simon Fraser University, Burnaby)

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 **Panel V: 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)
- 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)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 18.30 **Panel VI: Doctoral Research on Forms of Coerced Labour globally**

Chair and comment: Alexander Prenninger (Salzburg)

- Justin F. Jackson: *The U.S. Army and Forced Road Labour in the American Colonial Philippines, 1899-1907* (New York University)
- Christina Pruett Hermann: *Contradictions of Freedom: Contract, Compulsion, and Convict Servitude in the American State of Louisiana* (Michigan State University, East Lansing)

- Sven Van Melkebeke: *Forced Labour and Rural Agency in the Coffee Plantation-Economy of the Kivu in the Interwar Years* (Universiteit Gent)
- 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)
- Geetisha Dasgupta: *Quaranting Tea Labour in India: Extending Conditions of Bondage under Post-Colonial Time* (Binghamton University, New York)

18.45 – 20.00 Dinner

## Sunday, 28 September 2014

9.00 – 11.00

### **Panel VII: Doctoral Research on Forms of Coerced Labour globally**

Chair and comment: Christian de Vito (Leicester)

- Lisa Carstensen: *Modern Slave Labour in Brazil at the Intersection of Production, Migration and Resistance Networks* (Universität Kassel)
- Johanna Neuhauser: *International Mobility or Forced Labour? The Incorporation of Trafficking Discourses in Narratives of Brazilian Sex Workers* (Universität Kassel)
- Giselle Sakamoto Souza Vianna: *Coercion and Formal Freedom in Contemporary Slavery in Brazil: Concepts under Dispute* (Universidade Estadual de Campinas)
- Julia Harnoncourt: *Trabalho Escravo in today's Brazil* (Universität Wien)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30

### **Concluding Debate**

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch and **Departure**