



International Conference of Labour and Social History

Internationale Tagung der HistorikerInnen der Arbeiter- und anderer sozialer Bewegungen
Conférence internationale d'histoire ouvrière et sociale



Internationales Geisteswissenschaftliches Kolleg IGK
International Research Center
Arbeit und Lebenslauf in globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive
Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



Berlin Social Science Center

PROGRAMME (12.9.2015)

“Work and Non-Work”

17-19 September 2015

Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Reichpietschufer 50, D-10785 Berlin, Germany

Conference Language: English

The ITH Conference 2015 is hosted and co-organized by the ITH member institute “IGK Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History (re:work)”

Preparatory Group

Andreas Eckert (re:work, Berlin), **Josef Ehmer** (University of Vienna), **Nicole Mayer-Ahuja** (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), **Lukas Neissl** (ITH, Vienna), **Brigitte Pellar** (Vienna), **Sigrid Wadauer** (University of Vienna), **Susan Zimmermann** (ITH, Vienna)

Objectives

The critical reflection of the concept of work and the interrogation of its long-standing limitation to wage labour and gainful employment are among the central achievements of a global perspective on the history and the present of labour. Within this context the question arises regarding the permanently (re-)drawn and contested demarcations and “grey zones” between work and non-work, legitimate and unacknowledged, paid and unpaid work as part of the global development of the modern economy; this would include the migrant worker and the “vagabond”, the “housewife” and the cook, child labour, the video game at the workplace, the “petty criminal”, the unemployed unemployment activist etc. The differentiation between work and non-work, and the interrelation of the two spheres delimited from and merging into each other, have played an important role in economic development, the social valuation of different activities, and the life and the agency of non/working people themselves.

The 51st ITH Conference investigates the topic of “work and non-work” in an interdisciplinary perspective, in particular, from the point of view of the political construction of work and non-work. This approach is based on a broad notion of politics. The conference aims to contribute to denaturalising and re-politicising the concept and the practice of work and non-work and to highlight both work and non-work as a social relationship. The definition of certain activities as work or non-work and the relation between these poles have always been closely related to economic and socio-political policies, business strategies and social conflicts and struggles. Specifically, four (to some degree overlapping) focuses are central to the conference theme:

1.) *Production of work and non-work*: This theme explores how the – often ambiguous or even contradictory – boundaries between work and non-work have been invented, relocated, abolished and reconfigured and about how different actors, institutions and instruments have been involved in these processes.

2.) *Everyday life between work and non-work*: This is about investigating the agency of working people in concrete non/work situations (“self-will” [Eigensinn], slowdown of production, non-work at work and work in the free time etc.).

3.) *Movements against (wage) labour*: Hereunder, the refusal to work, struggles against work or specific forms of work, utopian anti-work concepts etc. could be subsumed.

4.) *Politics of knowledge production*: Contributions to this theme explore how different traditions – e.g. feminist or development research – have questioned prevailing definitions of work and non-work. How and why have such concepts influenced global labour history, what changes occur in the course of the transfer etc.?

Thursday, 17 September 2015

- 14.00 – 18.00 **Registration** of participants at the venue
- 14.30 – 16.30 Meeting of the ITH Board and the International Scientific Committee
- 17.30 – 18.00 **Conference Opening:**
Susan Zimmermann, ITH President
Jürgen Kocka, former President of the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
Andreas Eckert, Director of the International Research Center "Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History" (re:work)
- 18.00 – 19.30 **Keynote Lecture:**
Ilse Lenz (Ruhr University Bochum): **Boundary Drawings and Dominations: Non/Work in Postcolonial Worlds**
- 19.30 **Welcome Reception**

For your attention:

As from 21.30 (9.30 pm) tables are reserved at the P 103 (Potsdamer Straße 103, a few minutes walking distance from the venue) and all conference participants are welcome to join us!

Friday, 18 September 2015

- 8.30 – 9.00 **Registration** of participants at the venue
- 9.00 – 11.00 **Panel I: The Making of Real Work?**
Chair and comment: Tibor Valuch (University of Debrecen)
- Jürgen Kocka: *The Construction of "Work" and "Worker" in the Emerging Social Democratic Labour Movement in Germany 1840s-1870s* (re:work, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
 - Alissa Klots: *How Non-Work Becomes Work: Paid Domestic Labour and the Construction of the Soviet Working Class, 1917-1941* (Rutgers University, New Brunswick / Perm State University)
 - Sabine Rutar: *Constructing the Working People: Shipbuilders' and Dockers' Milieus on Both Sides of the Italo-Yugoslav Border During the Cold War* (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg)
 - Adéla Souralová: *Boundary Work in Paid Caregiving: How Do Nannies Understand their Roles and Identities of Care Workers?* (Masaryk University, Brno)
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 13.30 **Panel II: Categorising and Governing Work and Non-Work**
Chair and comment: Andreas Eckert (re:work, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Léa Renard and Theresa Wobbe: *Working with Family: The Statistical Recording of Family Workers, 1882-2010* (University of Potsdam; University of Grenoble / University of Potsdam)
 - Jürgen Schmidt: *Work and Non-Work in the "Paradise of the South Seas": Samoa, ca. 1860-1920* (re:work, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
 - Irina Vana: *Producing Mass Unemployment, Austria 1918-1938* (University of Vienna)
 - Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk: *Forgotten Labour. Indigenous Textile Production in Java under Dutch Colonial Rule, ca. 1830-1940* (Wageningen University)
- 13.30 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 17.00

Panel III: Transgressive Practices at Work

Chair and comment: Sigrid Wadauer (University of Vienna)

- Therese Garstenauer: *Under Suspicion of Underperforming? Austrian Civil Servants in the First Half of the 20th Century* (University of Vienna)
- Stefano Petrungaro: *Sex Work in Yugoslavia, 1918-1941* (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg)
- Pete Pesonen: *Non-Commercial Work: Working in the Grey Area* (Finnish Labour Archives, Helsinki)
- Ivan Rajković: *Make Do and Mock-Labour: Ambiguous Distinctions of Work and Non-Work in a Slowdown of Production in Serbia* (University College London)
- Andrew Urban: *"Biddy", Emancipation, and the Crisis of Free Labour: Engineering Servility in the United States North, 1850-1870* (Rutgers University, New Brunswick)

19.30 – 21.30

Public event in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (in German):

Ist das Arbeit?

Politisches Engagement in Geschichte und Gegenwart

Podiumsdiskussion mit:

- **Ute Finckh-Krämer**, MdB (SPD)
- **Robert Foltin**, Autor und Politaktivist
- **Till Kössler**, Professor am Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- **Dieter Plehwe**, Vorstandsmitglied von LobbyControl – Initiative für Transparenz und Demokratie e.V.

Saturday, 19 September 2015

8.30 – 9.00

Registration of participants at the venue

9.00 – 11.00

Panel IV: Inventing and Remoulding Work

Chair and comment: Josef Ehmer (University of Vienna)

- Eleonora Canepari: *Working as Factotum. Non-Domestic Services and the Urban Economy, XVIIth-XVIIIth Century Rome* (Aix-Marseille University)
- Katrin Moeller: *Honour by Performance. Interpretations of a Performance-Based Society at the Turn of the 18th/19th Centuries* (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
- Alexandra Oberländer: *"In the Summertime": Working in the Soviet Far East* (Research Center for East European Studies, Bremen)
- Amy Watson: *Young Czechs Talking about (Un)Employment: Can Theories of Neoliberalism Understand Contemporary Meanings of Work in "Post-Socialist" Settings?* (University of Glasgow)
- Milena Kremakova: *Do Mathematicians Work? Science, Marketisation and the Changing Meanings of Scientific Labour in Contemporary British and German Academia* (University of Warwick)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break

- 11.30 – 13.30 **Panel V: Conceptualising Work and Non-Work among Roma/Gypsies Communities**
 Chair and comment: Gerhard Baumgartner (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance/DÖW, Vienna)
- Jan Grill: *Ambiguities of Work: (Re-)Learning to Labour, Precariousness and Making of (In-)Active Citizens in the Case of Slovak Roma* (University of Manchester)
 - Cătălina Teșar: *Begging as Work among Romanian Cortorari Gypsies* (National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, Bucharest)
 - Elisabeth Tauber: *I Have To Do – Understanding "Work" from a Sinti-Centric Perspective* (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)
 - Martin Fotta: *Householding Against Work: Informal Moneylending and Relatedness among Calon of Bahia* (University of Kent)
- 13.30 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 16.00 **Concluding Debate**
 Chair: Sigrid Wadauer (University of Vienna)
- 16.30 – 18.30 **Guided Tour to the Museum Otto Weidt's Workshop for the Blind (Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt)**
Meeting point: Conference venue (Berlin Social Science Center/WZB)

Sunday, 20 September 2015

- 10.00 – 11.00 **Guided tour to the Friedrichsfelde Central Cemetery: Memorial to the Socialists (Zentralfriedhof Friedrichsfelde: Gedenkstätte der Sozialisten)**
Meeting point: Entrance of the Friedrichsfelde Central Cemetery, Gudrunstraße 20, 10365 Berlin
- 12.00 **Guided tour to the Nazi Forced Labour Documentation Centre (Dokumentationszentrum NS-Zwangsarbeit Berlin)**
Meeting point: Entrance of the Nazi Forced Labour Documentation Centre, Britzer Straße 5, 12439 Berlin