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DI PADOVA

## 40<sup>th</sup> - INTERNATIONAL LABOUR PROCESS CONFERENCE - 2022

# Special theme: Labour Mobility and Mobilization of Workers

21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022  
(Padua, Italy)



We are pleased to announce that the next International Labour Process Conference will take place at the University of Padua (Italy) between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022. This is the first time that the conference, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, is hosted in Italy and it coincides with the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the University of Padua. The University of Padua is one among the best-ranked academic institutions in the country and worldwide. University buildings, dispatched all over the centre, contribute to enrich the attractiveness of the city of Padua, well-known for its cultural and historical heritage.

ILPC is among the most important global events for research, analysis, and empirical and theoretical discussion in the field of labour studies, the labour process and capitalist transformations. Each year, the conference brings together scholars and policymakers in sociology, business and management, industrial relations, organisational analysis and other disciplines to present their research, promote international collaborations and initiate processes of shared knowledge creation.

## CONFERENCE THEME

The 2022 Conference focusses on labour mobility and the mobilization of workers, aiming to develop its theoretical understanding, the implications of migration in the labour process and its connections with work and migration policies. The theme of labour mobility encompasses a variety of related topics, from migrants' experiences of the labour market to wider issues of occupational mobility in the labour processes. The movement of workers in and out of jobs and occupations is especially important given the growth of precarious employment and the gig economy where insecure workers fear remaining forever stuck in the same spiral of mini jobs or social instability.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had tremendous implications on both of these understandings of labour mobility. On the one side, the tensions around labour migration have been exacerbated by the health crisis and the subsequent border closure, showing how the mobility of labour is crucial for many actors - workers, employers, states, unions but also temporary agencies and brokers - involved in the labour processes. On the other side, the (post?)-coronavirus time risks to worsen the segmentation of labour market along the lines of gender, race, nationality, age, education, social class and visa status.

This bulk of reflections mingles with the great amount of attention towards how social reproduction activities are *interlinked* with labour processes and in particular with the mobility of labour. While occupational mobility in the labour market is indeed strongly influenced by domestic and caring work in the household, international labour migrations sustain the social reproduction activities occurring in the country of origin and destination of migrant workers and their families.

Another key aim of the Conference is to understand how labour mobility shapes work and employment relations, affecting both dynamics of control and resistance in the labour process and individual and collective actions. Although labour turnover and subjective mobility practices have been, for long time, conceived as opposed to collective strategies to organize labour, the experiences of workers' mobilizations show how boundaries between the two are actually much more blurred.

Therefore, the Conference will address the role of labour mobility in the international labour process, by developing a debate on several aspects: at a critical time of change for the world economy following the pandemic, how do labour migrations and the mobility of workers across borders, sectors and occupations shape and are shaped by changing labour processes? How do technological and social changes in work controls and production processes interact with the mobility of workers across jobs and borders? How do the mobilizations of workers challenge the dichotomy between individual and collective forms of actions?



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference welcomes papers on any aspect of labour processes, labour markets, labour organising and labour reproduction. Illustrative examples of topics include:

- Labour process and other critical theories of labour issues
- Labour mobility and its implication for managerial rules and labour process
- Migrant workers and forms of organizing and resistance in the workplace and beyond
- Industrial relations, representation, and trade union strategies
- Labour process and reproduction process
- Power, inequality and labour market segmentation
- Worker's voice, participation, mobilization and solidarities
- Skills, knowledge and labour process
- Gender, race, ethnicity and class at work
- Technology, control and autonomy
- Changing forms of employment relations in a global perspective (e.g. unfree, forced, informal)
- Time, space and the labour process
- Political economy, workplace regimes, global value chains and mobility

Abstracts are externally evaluated and should be between 350 and 500 words. Key words should be given that indicate the focus of research and the methods used. The abstract should contain clear information about theoretical orientation, findings, methodology, and what contribution is being made to knowledge. Abstracts of papers that are concerned solely with theoretical or conceptual matters will need to provide clear information on how they address and advance relevant debates. We encourage contributions especially from the Global South.

Abstract submission through the ILPC website ([www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)) will open at the start of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Decisions of acceptance will be made by early December 2021.

## PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL STREAMS

ILPC is not a fully streamed conference and most proposals for papers are submitted to the general conference and are only themed by the organiser for the final programme at a later stage to ensure that sessions have some coherence. However, in the past decade the conference has welcomed special Streams on novel topics or on topics treated in a novel way, especially if the proposals for special Streams are based on international collaborations and address topics that can broaden the ILPC audience. Stream proposals should include a) a detailed description of the proposed stream, including title and key convenors; b) a discussion of how the stream will address the criteria for inclusion listed above.

Stream organisers should circulate the call for papers as well as select the abstract and to programme the stream in cooperation with the Conference organiser. If you are interested in organising a special Stream, please send a proposal to organiser ([ilpc2022@gmail.com](mailto:ilpc2022@gmail.com)), not exceeding 750 words, no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The conference organiser will discuss with the ILPC Steering Group and a decision will be made in time for the second, amended Call for Papers. Decisions of acceptance will be communicated by 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

## PRECONFERENCE DOCTORAL WORKSHOP

ILPC also has a great tradition of welcoming PhD students and focusing on the needs of early-stage researchers. ILPC 2022 will feature a pre-conference workshop dedicated to PhD students who wish to gain knowledge of labour process analysis, its history and debates. It will also provide an informal environment in which to share experiences and develop relationships. Doctoral papers are not streamed separately at the conference. You will be asked to identify whether you are a doctoral student on registration and whether you wish to attend the doctoral workshop.

## VENUE AND ORGANISATION

Considering the current health situation, we are planning to organise a hybrid Conference both in person and online. While we are supporting colleagues to come to the University of Padua, we are aware that for some people the mobility could be difficult for health situation and costs.

Founded in 1222, the University of Padua is Italy's second-oldest university and the world's fifth-oldest surviving university. Over the past ten years, the institution has continuously been ranked among the best Italian universities. Many of the university departments are located in buildings of high cultural and historical value, including the *Bo Palace* which is the historical seat of the University since 1493, the *Anatomical Theatre* built in 1594 and still preserved, the *Cattedra di Galileo* which is the chair from which the scientist uses to give his lectures, and the *Botanical Garden* founded in 1545 which is the world's oldest academic botanical garden still in its original location and is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage.

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The venue for the ILPC 2022 conference will be in the city centre in a lively area, with several restaurants, snack bars and cafés.

## THE 2022 ORGANISING TEAM

Devi Sacchetto, Francesca Alice Vianello,  
Olena Fedjuk, Francesco E. Iannuzzi,  
Valeria Piro, Anne-Iris Romens,  
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