



## WORCK Newsletter N° 4

Aalborg/Vienna, 17 June 2020

Dear members of the COST Action WORCK,  
dear colleagues interested in the study of labour and coercion,

luckily the overall number of new infections seems to slowly decrease in Europe and national governments carefully re-open their borders. Therefore, we decided to stick to our original plan and **prepare for a “real” conference at the CEU Budapest in September, while at the same time allowing for online participation**. All conference speakers have confirmed their participation, which means that the sessions will stay as they were planned. The working group meetings accompanying the conference sessions, however, will all be transformed into online meetings in order to allow equal access for everybody (see the revised program in the attachment).

Please note: The general pandemic situation still entails some risks. From now until September things can change very quickly – for the better and for the worse. Therefore, we need to take different scenarios into account and would like to ask you to follow our instructions for a step-by-step planning very carefully:

1. Most importantly: **Don't pay for travel or accommodation before you have received the official eCOST invitation** from the grant holder.
2. You may now register for the 1<sup>st</sup> WORCK Conference on “Reconceptualising Wage Labour” (17-19 September 2020) and choose whether you plan to travel to Budapest or whether you prefer participating online. The **new registration deadline is 17 August 2020**: <https://www.worck.eu/conference-1-2020-budapest/>
3. If you plan to travel to Budapest, you may reserve your room any time from now. The CEU Residence Center offers nice and cheap student and hotel rooms. For reservations please follow the instructions on our website. In case you choose another accommodation, please study the cancellation conditions carefully.
4. The grant holder will send you an **official eCOST invitation by Monday, 24 August 2020**. All conference speakers travelling to Budapest will receive full reimbursement from WORCK. All other participants, working group members and conference visitors will be informed by Monday, 24 August, if their journey to Budapest can be reimbursed.
5. Once you have received your eCOST invitation, you may then book your travel ticket and confirm your hotel reservation. Please **take out a travel cancellation insurance**
6. **and check the conditions of insurance in relation to COVID-19** carefully. Travel cancellation insurances are eligible for COST reimbursement.
7. The local organisers will inform you about the necessary health and security measures to ensure a safe participation at the conference venue. All conference sessions can be followed online. Some of the conference papers will be presented via video conference.

# WORCK

Let us briefly **report from the working groups**: During the time of the lockdown, the WORCK working groups organised a couple of online meetings to discuss their focus of collaboration and their publication strategy.

The next working group meetings will take place together with our DH Officer Silke Schwandt in order to discuss the digital tools of communication, analysis and publication:

- 19 June 2020, 10-12am (UTC+2): WG 4 Meeting (contact: Hanne Østhus)
- 25 June 2020, 2-4pm (UTC+2): WG 2 Meeting (contact: Christian De Vito)
- 30 June 2020, 10-12am, 2–3pm (UTC+2): WG 1 Meeting (contact: Claude Chevaleyre)

If you would like to participate in one of the planned meetings, please get in contact with the respective working group leader.

In order to enable the working group members to really collaborate and publish together, the WORCK Core Group has now taken two measures for the further development of WORCK's digital infrastructure.

1. We have developed a **questionnaire on WORCK's tools of communication, collaboration and publication**. No matter if you are an active member or just following the WORCK activities, we would like to invite all of you to fill in the questionnaire (<https://www.umfrageonline.com/s/WORCKquestionnaire>) **by 1 July 2020**.
2. Our DH Officer, Silke Schwandt, will set up a **WORCK Data Publication Platform** this summer, allowing for the publication of data, texts and results of very different formats (annotated bibliographies, annotated source documents, mini-essays, online exhibitions etc.). All published items will receive a DOI and can be listed as citable publications.

Moreover, we would like to inform you that one of our International Partners, Hannah Barker from Arizona State University, has set up a new online pedagogical resource: "Teaching Medieval Slavery and Captivity" (<http://medievalslavery.org>). The website offers a collection of primary sources in English translation as well as images and selected bibliographies of scholarly work to help those who want to incorporate the history of slavery and captivity into their classes. The scope of the collection is global and covers the 4<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. If you would like to contribute, please contact [hannah.barker.1@asu.edu](mailto:hannah.barker.1@asu.edu).

Let us conclude with three reminders and invitations:

1. WORCK finances **conference grants** for PhD students and Early Career Investigators located in an "Inclusiveness Target Country". If you would like to apply, please follow the instructions on our website: <https://www.worck.eu/activities/itc-grant/> and contact the ITC Conference Grant Manager Jakub Stofaník ([itc-cg@worck.eu](mailto:itc-cg@worck.eu)).
2. WORCK finances **mobility and collaboration grants**, both to support the individual mobility of young researchers and to foster collaboration between active WORCK members. If you would like to apply, please follow the instructions on our website: <https://www.worck.eu/activities/stsm/> and contact the STSM Coordinator Clara Almagro-Vidal ([stsm@worck.eu](mailto:stsm@worck.eu)).
3. The **WORCK Blog** on "COVID-19 and the Workers of the World" has received numerous reports, essays and calls from all over the world: <https://www.worck.eu/blog/>. If you would like to contribute to that debate, please send your blog text to [worck@worck.eu](mailto:worck@worck.eu).



We are very much looking forward to hopefully seeing many of you at the Budapest conference in September.

Stay safe and take care!

Johan Heinsen and Juliane Schiel

Attachment:

- Programme of the WORCK Conference “Reconceptualising Wage Labour” (17–19 September 2020, Budapest)