

WORCK WG3 – (Im)mobilization of the workforce

Newsletter # 2

Skagaströnd, Iceland, 1 July 2020

Greetings!

Welcome to the second installment of the newsletter for *Working Group 3: (Im)mobilizations of the workforce* of the COST Action-funded network *Worlds of Related Coercions in Work* (www.work.eu). I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good health in these challenging times. As you are surely aware, the current world situation due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak has impacted the plans of our network to some degree. Despite these challenges we are working hard on developing our working group and its goals and projects within the next couple of years. This newsletter will detail some of those plans as well as what we have been up to.

Previous and current activities

1st WG meeting in Lyon

The first WG meeting, held in Lyon in February 2020, was very successful. There were sixteen participants in our session of discussions and plan-making. On the basis of several pre-selected texts we discussed a variety of theoretical and methodological issues related to our working group, discussed a possible framework for the group and its research, and made some plans for possible outputs of our work. A more full report on the meeting is accessible on our Slack channel and in the WG3 Google Drive folder here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1dVg0dDL57PaZTJ_UXVMo0usF_af6aTVU

Online sub-group meeting

Following the successful meeting in Lyon, plans were made for a smaller meeting of several WG members to draft a framework for the working group to prepare for our second big meeting in September. This meeting was scheduled in Amsterdam in early April but was canceled as Europe was more or less shut down. Instead a group of seven people met online in early May, where four WG members were selected to draft a preliminary framework for the WG to be submitted to the next big WG meeting in September (more on that later).

Edited volume book proposal

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson has also had several online meetings with the acquisitions editor of the book series *Work in Global and Historical Perspectives*, published by De Gruyter (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/serial/WGHP-B>), to discuss a possible edited volume. The plan is to submit a formal proposal in January 2021. The group which is drafting the preliminary framework will also organize the book proposal. In the following months the editors/organizers will establish rules for contributions and the maximum number of papers/chapters. We will keep you updated regularly on these plans.

Upcoming events

WG3 online meeting in September

The second working group meeting was scheduled to be held at the Central European University in Budapest in September 2020 in connection with the 1st WORCK conference held at the same time. While the conference is still happening, the CORE Group of WORCK has decided to move all related activities (incl. WG meetings) online. While we have not set a date as of yet, we aim to have the second working group meeting online in the last week of September. We will send you further information later.

2nd WORCK meeting in Lisbon (Portugal), 22–24 February 2021

The second WORCK meeting in Lisbon in February 2021 is still on schedule and we will have our third formal working group meeting there.

Joint meeting of WG2, WG3 and SISLAV in Venice (Italy), June 2021

In May 2020, the Italian Labour History Society (Società Italiana di Storia del Lavoro - SISLAV) approached the leaders of WGs 2 and 3 to initiate a joint meeting to facilitate cooperation and possible further collaboration on publications or other resources. Following an online meeting a proposal for a thematic seminar and discussion meeting was developed and is attached to this newsletter. We will have the opportunity to further discuss the matter during our online meeting in September. Calls for participation will be distributed in October 2020 and we encourage you to consider participating in this promising venture.

2nd WORCK Conference, Vienna 30 August – 3 September 2021

The second WORCK conference will be held in Vienna (Austria) in co-operation with the European Labour History Network in August/September 2021. It is still in the developing stages and more information will be shared later. We will have our fourth WG meeting there.

Online discussion forum - Slack

The WORCK team has been using an online platform called Slack (www.slack.com) for informal discussions related to our project. Many of you have already joined the forum. For those who haven't, we encourage you to join us and participate. We believe this might prove a very helpful tool for continuing online the discussions which we will have during our regular meetings. The mailing list will rather be reserved for major notifications and official messages such as calls for papers, although

you are of course welcome to continue using the mailing list to send questions, comments, information or engage in discussions.

We look forward to (hopefully) seeing you online in September,

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson and Biljana Stojić