

Labour Relations and Power in Global Production Networks – Conceptual and Methodological Challenges

15-16 July, 2013, in Kassel (Germany)

Call for papers

The Global Production Network (GPN) approach constitutes a novel and innovative perspective for the analysis of social, political, economic, and cultural phenomena related to transnational production. The shift from a “chain” to a “network”-metaphor in analysis of global production introduced new theoretical and conceptual issues to the debate and has informed various disciplines. For instance, there is a very fruitful discussion on the question how power, value and embeddedness are interrelated and measured on different scales. Also, questions of labour relations, workers movements, and social standards come into the analytical picture. Concerning the evaluation of shifts in GPNs, concepts of industrial versus social upgrading and their effects on labour, racism and gender relations are discussed.

In order to enrich these debates, the aim of the conference is to bring together different theoretical perspectives as well as empirical research in the field. We want to discuss the GPN framework from a variety of angles, including heterodox perspectives, such as post-colonial and post-structuralist approaches, and examine methodological as well as theoretical challenges.

Papers may want to address the following questions:

How do we conceptualise and measure “power” in production relations within network analysis? How do we understand the relation between networks and their environment? How is inequality (re-)produced in and through Global Production Networks? Where do actors and ideas that change GPNs emerge from? What can workers movements learn from GPN-Analysis?

Among the panellists are: Gale Raj-Reichert (Manchester), Martin Hess (Manchester), Michael Fichter (Berlin), Stephanie Barrientos (Manchester), Christoph Scherrer (Kassel), Marcus Taylor (Kingston) (tbc), Mark Anner (Pennsylvania) (tbc), Hariati Sinaga (Kassel), Katherine Joynt (Witwatersrand), Lisa Carstensen (Kassel), Christian Scheper (Duisburg).

We especially want to encourage PhD students and young scholars to present their projects.

Abstracts of no more than 400 words can be sent to us via email by **April 22, 2013**.
Notification/programme: early may 2013.

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