

## **Localised labour and mobility regimes: governance and control beyond the workplace**

Regimes of labour mobility and the tools for their regulation play a central role in the restructuring and intensification of networks of capitalist production on a global scale. While renewed interest in labour regime analysis has developed conceptualisations of the global and national dynamics that organize and condition such processes, their localised operations and space-specific manifestations have been insufficiently addressed. This panel seeks to consider the ways in which forces of capital accumulation and systems of labour migration have transformed and conditioned the particularities of specific labour markets and the differentiated labour relations, processes and infrastructures that ensure the productivity of migrant labour.

The concept of ‘labour control regimes’ has been developed to show how, on the one hand, the labour process is always contingent on specific historical and geographic set of relations and institutional environments, and, on the other, on a range of control strategies that surpass the labour process and spread to various social spheres such as the household, social reproduction, consumption, etc. (Jonas 1996; Baglioni 2018; Fudge 2019). Building on these contributions, we are particularly interested in exploring the ways in which migration governance technologies deployed beyond the workplace, by multiple state and non-state interventions in the spheres of e.g. welfare, housing, bureaucratic procedures, healthcare, law-and-order enforcement, have been instrumental in modulating the political and legalistic constitution of labour markets and a system of migrant labour characterised by precariousness and disposability.

Subsequently, such a perspective is useful in helping us to conceptualise the constellation of diverse territorial formations – e.g. urban ghettos, rural slum-camps, agro-industrial enclaves, etc. – as manifestations of the (micro-)spatial politics of labour (Pun and Smith 2007) and recruitment hubs for the most precarious and highly irregularised sectors of Western economies.

We invite papers which tackle the following from a diverse set of ethnographic and theoretical perspectives:

- ways in which migration governance technologies (at local, state and transnational levels) and their disciplinary methods across various spheres of life (welfare, housing, bureaucracy, healthcare, etc.) relate to labour relations and markets and their local impact;
- emergence and reproduction of spatial and temporal configurations of particular labour (control) regimes and systems of migrant labour including through containment, dispersal, debt, dormitory accommodation, etc.;
- locating new modes and forms of work, including through subcontracting, brokering, recruitment chains, non-standard contracts, informalisation and flexibility;
- place-based and transnational strategies of coping and resistance and possibilities for advancing migrant workers’ rights

## **Bibliography:**

Baglioni, E., Campling, L., Coe, N. and Smith, A. (2022) *Labour regimes and global production*. Agenda Publishing: Newcastle

Fudge, J. (2019) "(Re)conceptualising unfree labour: local labour control regimes and constraints on workers' freedoms". *Global Labour Journal* 10 (2): 108– 22.

Jonas, A. (1996) "Local labour control regimes: uneven development and the social regulation of production". *Regional Studies* 30 (4): 323– 38.

Pun, N. and Smith, C. (2007) Putting transnational labour process in its place: the dormitory labour regime in post-socialist China. *Work, Employment and Society* 21 (1): 27–45.

We invite your abstract submissions (max. 400 words) by 25 August 2023 to [Polina Manolova](mailto:polina.manolova@uni-due.de) (Universität Duisburg-Essen) [polina.manolova@uni-due.de](mailto:polina.manolova@uni-due.de) and [Thorsten Schlee](mailto:thorsten.schlee@uni-due.de) (Universität Duisburg-Essen) [thorsten.schlee@uni-due.de](mailto:thorsten.schlee@uni-due.de).