

## WORCK Newsletter N° 12

Aalborg/Vienna, 11 June 2022

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

the new year has started with a couple of meetings, of which some at least could finally take place on-site or hybrid again.

Most importantly, from 23 to 27 May 2022, the **WORCK Training School** (“Rewriting Labour History. Perspectives from the Globe”) took place in Warsaw, Poland. Hosted by Natalia Jarska at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, 22 master and PhD students from all parts of Europe met with representatives of the WORCK working groups for an exciting and intensive 5-days programme. Besides two inspiring key note talks given by Raffaella Sarti (Urbino University) and Seth Rockman (Brown University), the participants attended seminars and roundtable discussions on labour and coercion and discussed their research proposals with trainers and peers. In addition, Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikova gave a fascinating talk on the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the training school participants discovered the historical sites of Warsaw on a 3-hours guided city tour.

Apart from this, the WORCK network has successfully set up **two digital event series**:

- The **monthly After WORCK Drinks**, organised and coordinated by Viola Müller (Bonn University) and the Think Tank group, have become an occasion to reflect and discuss overarching questions of labour and coercion and the future of WORCK in an informal 1-hour setting. For the upcoming After WORCK Drinks, the Think Tank group invites especially the co-editors of WORCK publications to present and discuss draft editorials and the key ideas of the main contributions.

The next After WORCK Drinks take place on: 21 June, 19 July, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 6 December, from 5–6pm.

- Johan Heinsen, WORCK’s current Virtual Networking Coordinator, has launched a **Digital Humanities Workshop Series**, in cooperation with the Digital Infrastructure Group. The first Workshop, given by Aske Brock Laursen, took place on 30 May and was dedicated to the network analysis tool Gephi. Follow-up workshops on gephi and other digital analysis tools are planned.

Most of the other WORCK events that took place over the last couple of months served the **ongoing WORCK publication projects**:

On 31 January and 1 February as well as on 26 April 2022, the contributors of the **Past&Present Supplement on “Labour and Coercion”** met for an online workshop to discuss extended abstracts and draft articles.

From 1–3 March 2022, the working group 1 members contributing to a **special issue on “Work Semantics”** have met in Aix-en-Provence for a 3-days writers’ workshop. Hosted by Hayri Özkoray, the participants discussed their full draft articles for final revisions before submitting to the OeZG board this summer.

From 11–12 March 2022, the working group 4 members contributing to the **special issue “Gender, Coercion, and War Labour”** met virtually for a writers’ workshop, organised by Julia Heinemann from Vienna University.

From 19–20 May 2022, the contributors of the **special issue “Making Trajectories and Sites of Labour Im/Mobility”** met in Vienna, hosted by Göran Ryden.

Other writers’ workshops will follow. For upcoming events, please consult our agenda website: <https://www.worck.eu/worck-agenda/>

Most important preview: SAVE THE DATE!

From **4 to 7 September 2023**, the **final international WORCK Conference** is going to take place **in Prague, Czech Republic**. Hosted by Jakub Štofanič from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, this conference will be dedicated to a thorough reflection on the concept of coercion as an analytical lens to study labour and power relations at large. The coordinating conference team, consisting of Viola Müller, Hanne Østhus, Müge Özbek, and Jakub Štofanič, will welcome paper proposals from active WORCK members combining empirical research with conceptual reflection. The official call for papers will be issued in September 2022.

To conclude, we would like to make three announcements:

- As the next grant period, starting on 1 November 2022, will be dedicated to the finalization of the WORCK publications and the final WORCK Conference, we would like to encourage all those who are planning to apply for an Short Term Scientific Mission (<https://www.worck.eu/activities/stsm/>), an ITC Conference Grant or a Virtual Mobility Grant, to do so before the end of this grant period. Especially those who would like to meet to discuss draft papers, co-edit editorials etc., please try to use the COST money available in this grant period rather than in the next.
- We finally have an official WORCK letterhead and a WORCK powerpoint master. Feel free to use these templates when you are communicating or presenting WORCK-related content. You may download the templates here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1sZ9gHSx9XvLhT0T8yqOmxEZeehnDTYaB>
- And last but not least we would like to end with an encouragement: If anyone would like to start a new initiative or launch a new publication idea within the WORCK network, please feel free to do so. Even though there are quite some publication projects on their way already and even though we already start to plan the final conference, WORCK remains open for new ideas until the end, especially from those who might have joined the network at a later stage or have had less spare time to contribute until now.

With best regards from Aalborg and Vienna,

Johan Heinsen and Juliane Schiel