

WORCK Newsletter N° 15

Aalborg/Vienna, 11 July 2023

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

before we all leave for summer holidays and take a well-deserved time off from the daily business, we would like to provide you with a quick update on the activities of our WORCK network.

On 19/20 January 2023, Working Group 2 has met in Bonn for an inspiring **workshop on “Coercion, Worksites and Historical Change: a Source-Based Approach”**, co-organised by Nico Pizzolato, Amal Shahid and Göran Rydén, and hosted by Christian De Vito.

On 25/26 May 2023, Clara Almagro-Vidal hosted a **Core Group Meeting** in Madrid. After an extensive reflection and exchange on the learnings and results from the working groups, we were discussing ideas, initiatives and activities for the time after the COST funding.

In the meantime, the conference committee (consisting of Hanne Østhus, Nico Pizzolato, Jakub Štofanič, Laura Šukarov-Eischer, Fia Sundevall, Müge Telci Özbek) is working hard to prepare a fantastic programme for our **final WORCK conference, taking place on 5–7 September in Prague**. The conference programme and detailed information on the event will soon be available here: <https://worck.eu/conference-3-2023-prague/>.

Just before the final Conference, our **Management Committee** will meet via zoom to discuss the work and budget plan for our extension period (November 2023 to March 2024). The meeting will take place on 1 September, 12–2pm. If you have suggestions for activities in the final grant period, please contact your working group leaders and/or send a message to laura.sukarov-eischer@univie.ac.at by 31 July 2023 at the very latest.

Furthermore, we would like to draw your attention to the **call for our second WORCK Training School entitled “Programming Labour History. Digital Methods for Social and Labour Historians”**: <https://worck.eu/activities/training-schools/>. The event takes place from 12–15 February 2024 in Bielefeld, hosted by Tim Geelhaar, our COST Action’s DH Officer, and addresses junior and senior researchers interested in an in-depth introduction to digital methods and training in digital tools. Unlike our first Training School in Warsaw, this event targets not only master and early PhD students but also active, experienced members of the WORCK network who would like to deepen the ongoing exchange on the benefits of digital humanities for labour and social historians. The deadline for paper proposals is 1 October 2023.

Finally, we are very proud to present the first WORCK publications to you! The **Palgrave Handbook of Global Slavery throughout History**, co-edited by Damian Pargas and Juliane Schiel and containing numerous chapters from WORCK members, is now online and fully open access: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-13260-5>. It encompasses 32 chapters on slaving practices in world history reaching from Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt to different time periods and world regions to post-abolitionist contexts in Africa and the Americas and types of modern slavery in today's global economy. Five injections as well as the editors' introduction and conclusion raise cross-cutting questions and seek to situate slavery studies in the wider field of global history today.

The **Scandinavian Journal of History** is about to issue a volume co-edited by Johan Heinsen, Vilhelm Vilhelmsson and Hanne Østhus on "**Labour and Coercion in the Nordic Region**". The volume discusses the constitutive role played by various practices of coercion within a range of labour relations across the Nordic region in the early modern period. The editors' introduction as well as paper contributions by Vilhelm Vilhelmsson, Carolina Uppenberg and Johan Heinsen are already available online:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03468755.2023.2218848?src>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03468755.2023.2197916>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03468755.2023.2210153>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03468755.2023.2222740?src=>

The articles by Peeter Tammisto, Hanne Østhus and Emilie Luther Valentin will follow within the next days.

The special issue at the **Österreichische Zeitschrift für GeschichtswissenschaftEN (OeZG)** on "**Work Semantics**", prepared by Working Group 1 (eds. Claude Chevalyeyre and Juliane Schiel) has just entered production and will be out in late summer. The same applies to the collected volume of Working Group 3 (eds. Claudia Bernardi, Viola F. Müller, Biljana Stojic, and Vilhelm Vilhelmsson) on "**Moving Workers. Historical Perspectives on Labor, Coercion and Im/Mobility (16th-20th c.)**": The manuscript has entered production by De Gruyter and the publication date is set for 23 October 2023. Likewise, the volume of the Public Outreach Group (eds. Anamarija Batista, Viola F. Müller and Corinna Peres) on "**Coercion and Wage Labour. Exploring Work Relations through History and Art**", will be published by UCL Press on 4 December 2023. Other publications will follow next year:

<https://worck.eu/output/ongoing-publication-projects/>.

Furthermore, we would like to draw your attention to the current **call for virtual mobility grants** meant to foster collaboration in a virtual setting: <https://worck.eu/virtual-mobility-grants/>

And last but not least: The **European Labour History Network**, coordinated by the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam, is preparing its **5th EHLN Conference**. Organised by Silke Neunsinger, the conference will take place from **11 to 13 June 2024 at Uppsala University, Sweden**. All WORCK members are invited to send in papers to contribute to the activities of the ELHN's "Labour & Coercion" working group – from which this COST Action derived and to which WORCK will return after its COST funding: <https://worck.eu/2023/06/08/call-for-papers-labour-coercion-at-the-5th-elhn-conference/>. The deadline for paper and panel suggestions is 20 August 2023.

A final aside from Brussels: In March 2023, our Science Officer in Brussels changed. As Mickael Pero had to take over other responsibilities, we are now working with Marco Carulli as our new Science Officer. We are grateful for the support we received from Mickael and wish him all the best. In the meantime, we have already had the chance to get to know Marco as a very responsive contact person in Brussels. We are happy that he will guide us through the final phase of our COST Action.

With our best wishes for a restful summer!

Johan Heinsen and Juliane Schiel