



7th international conference

social boundaries of work

Critical
Labour
Studies
in
the Times
of a Polycrisis

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

16-18.10.2024 – University of Wrocław



→ 16.10. OPEN DAY*

University of Wrocław Library, Fryderyka Joliot-Curie 12 St., Room 3

SESSIONS HELD IN POLISH (PL-EN, EN-PL interpretation provided)

9:15 - 10:00 Opening of the conference by the authorities of the University of Wrocław, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology and the Sociology of Work Section of the Polish Sociological Association and the representative of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (TBC)

10:00 - 12:00 Workshop I: *Working conditions of platform workers in Europe and the forthcoming Platform Work Directive* (ERC ResPecTMe Awareness Workshop)

- Chair: **Bartosz Mika** (University of Gdansk)
- Introductory lecture: **Valeria Pulignano** (KU Leuven), **Karol Muszynski** (University of Warsaw / KU Leuven)
- Panelists: **Barbara Surdykowska** (NSZZ Solidarność / Solidarity), **Stanisław Kierwiak** (OPZZ Konfederacja Pracy / Confederation of Labour), **Arkadiusz Krupicz** (Pyszne.pl / JustEat Takeaway), the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (TBC)

12:00 - 12:30 Coffee break

12:30 - 14:30 Workshop II: *(Un)usual crisis of public services: the COV-WORK project*

- Chair: **Julia Kubisa** (University of Warsaw)
- Introductory lecture: **Jacek Brurski** (University of Wrocław, UWr), **Jan Czarzasty** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics), **Aleksandra Drabina-Różewicz** (UWr), **Alicja Pałęcka** (UW, SGH), **Szymon Pilch** (UWr), **Adam Mrozowicki** (UWr)
- Panelists: **Edyta Odyjas** (NSZZ Solidarność / Solidarity), **TBC** (Pracodawcy RP / Employers of Poland), **Maria Magdalena Malinowska** (OZZ IP / Workers' Initiative), **Jacek Pluta** (UM Wrocław / Wrocław City Council)

14:30 - 15:30 Lunch

15:30 - 17:30 Workshop III: *The ENDURE Community Resilience Lab*

- Chair: **Olga Gitkiewicz** (University of Wrocław, UWr)
- Introductory lecture: **Mateusz Karolak** (UWr), **Könül Jafarova** (UWr)
- Panelists: **Michał Syska** (Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej / Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy), **Ignacy Józwiak** (OZZ IP / Workers' Initiative)

17:30 - 18:00 Open Day Final Discussion

→ 17.10. THURSDAY

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Wrocław, Koszarowa 3 St.

SESSIONS HELD IN ENGLISH

9:00 - 11:00 Plenary Session: *Critical Labour Studies in the Times of Polycrisis* (📍 Auditorium A, the Institute of Political Science)

- Chair: **Agata Krasowska** (University of Wrocław)
- **Michele Ford** (University of Sydney): *Collective Action in the Face of Democratic Regression: Lessons from Southeast Asia* [on-line]
- **Callum Cant** (University of Essex): *Things can only get... worse: Workers' experiences of 'polycrisis' in Britain*
- **Valeria Pulignano** (Catholic University of Leuven): *Unpaid Labour and Inequality in Precarious Work*

* The Open Day is supported by the European Research Council (ERC Advanced Grant), grant agreement n° 833577 – Project ResPecTMe, NCN OPUS project COV-WORK funded by the National Science Centre in Poland (UMO-2020/37/B/HS6/00479) and the ENDURE project funded by the Trans-Atlantic Platform and the National Science Centre in Poland (UMO-2021/03/Y/HS6/00167).

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break (📍 the Institute of Political Science)

11:30 - 13:30 Parallel thematic groups

G1. Continuity in crisis? Polycrisis and the world of work in Poland in 2020-2024

Room: 203, the Institute of Sociology

- Chair: **Mihai Varga** (Free University of Berlin)
- Discussant: **Valeria Pulignano** (Catholic University of Leuven)
- **Adam Mrozowicki** (University of Wrocław): *The (poly)crisis – game changer or continuation? Interlinked crises in the world of work*
- **Mateusz Karolak** (University of Wrocław): *Do we need a crisis of work? (Post)pandemic crises in Polish press discourse in 2020-2023*
- **Juliusz Gardawski** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics): *The socio-economic consciousness of working Poles in the post-pandemic situation*
- **Jan Czarzasty** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics), **Adam Mrozowicki** (University of Wrocław): *The revival of social dialogue or the trigger of social conflicts? Polycrisis in the Polish industrial relations*
- **Jacek Burski, Agata Krasowska** (University of Wrocław): *Biographical Experiences and Coping Strategies of Essential Workers in Healthcare, Social Care, Education and Logistics*

G2. Migration, work and polycrisis

Room: 25, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Olga Czeranowska** (SWPS University in Warsaw)
- **Tibor Meszmann, Olena Fedjuk** (CELSI): *Trapping workers' consent? Temporary work agencies' role in reproducing labour power of non-local workers for Hungarian manufacturing companies*
- **Valeria Piro** (University of Padova): *Spaces of everyday solidarities. Collective forms of agency of unorganised migrant workers*
- **Sara Bojarczuk, Dominika Pszczółkowska, Marek Okólski, Anita Brzozowska, Agnieszka Fihel, Kamil Matuszczyk** (University of Warsaw): *Employers' interests in labour migration research – a conceptual framework within New Institutional Economics*
- **Imran Sarihasan** (Polish Academy of Sciences): *How crises work as a barrier activator for immigrant entrepreneurship: case from Hungary during the COVID-19 pandemic*
- **Aniela Partyga** (University of Wrocław): *Social psychoanalysis of a biography. The case of migrant workers in Poland*
- **Snježana Gregurović, Margareta Gregurović, Simona Kuti, Sanja Klempić Bogadi, Sonja Podgorelec** (Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies/IMIN) *Employment of migrant workers in Croatia: Between precarity and lack of policies*

G3. Digital transformation at work

Room: 26, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Bartosz Mika** (University of Gdansk)
- **Gabriela Julio-Medel, Devi Sacchetto** (University of Padova): *Italian and Polish workers' positioning at the crossroads of the automotive technological transition*
- **Dominika Polkowska** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University): *The end of the taxi as we know it? The role of fleet partners in professionalising the app-based driver profession.*
- **Karol Muszyński** (University of Warsaw), **Valeria Pulignano** (Catholic University of Leuven): *Why labour platforms use different employment arrangements?*
- **Mirosław Skorek** (Scomi-tech): *Transformation of operational activities of fire protection services in the field of IT technology*
- **Deepa Kylasam Iyer** (Cornell University), **Francis Kuriakose** (Impact and Policy Research Institute): *Utopias and Crises at work: Exploring Creativity through End-game Scenarios of Artificial Intelligence* [on-line]
- **Olga Gitkiewicz, Szymon Pilch** (University of Wrocław): *Giants on digital legs: How big tech platforms (GAFAM) are changing the world of work and labour struggles*

G4. Capital, class and critical labour studies in contemporary academia

Room: 27, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Paul Stewart** (Grenoble School of Management):
- **Miguel Martinez Lucio** (University of Manchester): *Social movements, communities and the renewal of worker representation: Myths, realities and possibilities in the building of connections*
- **Sara Lafuente Hernández** (European Trade Union Institute and ULB), **Pedro Chaves Giraldo** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid): *From 'guinea pigs' to actors: Participatory action research and its potential for trade union revitalization*
- **Justyna Kajta** (SWPS University in Warsaw): *Bringing class into work. On the upwardly mobiles' experiences in professional fields*
- **Adam Ochwat** (University of Warsaw): *University, work, unions: the birth of a student-led union movement*
- **Helena Antunes** (University of Porto): *(Re)configurations of the academic profession in times of polycrisis*

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch (📍 the Institute of Political Science)

14:30 - 16:30 Plenary session: *Sociology and Trade Unions: Collaboration across Boundaries* (📍 Auditorium A, the Institute of Political Science)

- Chair: **Julia Kubisa** (University of Warsaw)
- **Paul Stewart** (Grenoble School of Management): *Critical labour Studies: origins and prospects in the age of neoliberal polycrisis*
- **Jane Holgate** (Leeds University Business School): *Agents of curiosity. Why the union movement needs political education and critical thinking*
- **Ignacy Józwiak** (University of Warsaw): *Work, workers' rights and workplace organizing in the shadow of war: a transnational view on Ukraine*
- **Ian Greer** (Cornell University): *Transgressing the boundaries of academic work in Ithaca, New York, USA* [on-line]

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break (📍 the Institute of Political Science)

17:00 - 19:00 Parallel thematic groups

G5. Accessibility of the world of work for persons with disabilities

Room: 25, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Ewa Giermanowska** (University of Warsaw)
- **Anna Drabarz** (Polish Disability Forum), **Wioleta Hryniewicka-Filipkowska** (University of Białystok): *The European Union as an inclusive employer of employees with disabilities — assessment of the compliance and effectiveness of the employment policies of selected EU institutions and bodies*
- **Kamila Albin** (University of Warsaw): *Between social involvement and working for living: activism and the work in the narratives of women with disabilities*
- **Magdalena Kocejko** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics), **Zbigniew Głab** (University of Lodz): *Policy of professional activation of people with disabilities in Poland from the perspective of cruel optimism. A thing about unfulfilled promises*
- **Jerzy Bielecki, Tomasz Plachecki** (Educational Research Institute, IBE): *Career guidance as a process to support the construction of educational and vocational pathways for learners with disabilities*
- **Dorota Żuchowska-Skiba** (AGH University of Krakow): *The impact of technology on employment for people with disabilities*

G6. ENDURE: Essentiality, inequality and livelihoods

Room: 203, the Institute of Sociology

- Chairs: **Mihai Varga** (Free University of Berlin), **Mateusz Karolak** (University of Wrocław)
- **Emina Bužinkić** (Institute for Development and International Relations), **Nina Čolović** (Serb People's Council): *Female teachers in minoritized education in Croatia: precarity, nationhood, and the capitalist neoliberal grammar*
- **Soner Barthoma** (Uppsala University), **Susan Beth Rottmann** (Ozyegin University), *The politics of waiting, contested belonging(s) and negotiated spaces: Precarious lives of migrant workers in Istanbul in times of Covid-19*
- **Christian Fröhlich** (Free University of Berlin): *The role of biographical resources in how essential workers coped with the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany*
- **Mateusz Karolak, Adam Mrozowski, Könül Jafarova** (University of Wrocław): *Navigating the Storm: The Lived Experiences and Coping Strategies of Migrant and Non-migrant Logistics Workers in Poland During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- **Mihai Varga** (Free University of Berlin): *Boundary or underpinning? The social context of work in poor households*
- **Aline Hasegawa** (University of Campinas); **Marina Fontolan** (University of Texas); **Leda Gitahy** (University of Campinas): *Vale do Ribeira, Serra da Bocaina, Complexo da Maré, and the Amazon: study cases on community resilience in Brazil during the Covid-19 pandemic [on-line]*
- **Sofía Vinasco, Yenny Ramírez** (National University of Colombia): *Payment in advance: income, family and marks on the bodies of women returnees to Colombia [on-line]*

G7. Emotions in organizations and professional work

Room: 26, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Justyna Kajta** (SWPS University in Warsaw)
- **Sylwia Kwaśniewska** (University of Silesia in Katowice): *Who will give you a glass of water in your old age? Women's work in nursing homes and demographic changes*
- **Martina Kolářová Veverková** (Charles University in Prague): **The Czech employees' stories of the pandemic – work stress and sense-making in a complex social crisis**
- **Teresa Ferreira** (Iscte — University Institute of Lisbon): *Occupational burnout in public institutions — how new public management principles lead public servants to work-related suffering*
- **Beata Pawłowska** (University of Lodz): *Emotions in the everyday medical staff work*

G8. Care work in crises

Room: 27, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Dominika Polkowska** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University)
- **Patricia Ward** (University of Bielefeld): *Our bosses think we are 'glorified warehouse workers': logistics, labor and humanitarian aid*
- **Franziska Baum** (University of Hamburg): *Care in crisis: platforms and self-employment in care: who's dependent on whom?*
- **Aniela Partyga** (University of Wrocław): *Class conditions for organising a trade union. Attitudes of caregivers in nursing homes in Wrocław*
- **Jiahui HOU** (Kobe University): *The Actual Conditions of Job Seeking in the Domestic Service Industry: From the Perspective of Domestic Workers*
- **Luca Villaggi** (University of Padova), **Samuel Maruszewski** (University of Wrocław): *Labouring citizenship. Welfare state transformations between Italy and Poland*

20:00 Gala Dinner

→ 18.10. FRIDAY

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Wrocław, Koszarowa 3 St.
SESSIONS HELD IN ENGLISH

9:00 - 11:00 Parallel thematic groups

G9. (Re)Defining Work in the Internet Age: Unveiling Dynamics of Online Labor Markets

Room: 25, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Karol Muszynski** (University of Warsaw)
- **Kamil Łuczaj, Aleksandra Drączyk** (University of Lodz): *When does work happen for Internet content creators? Exploring work-for-labor, the intelligentsia habitus, and social legitimization*
- **Kaja Kaźmierska** (University of Lodz): *Conflict of roles or conflict of discourses — the meaning of work in the narratives of large family mothers*
- **Paweł Zalewski** (University of Warsaw): *Exploring the life trajectories and digital capital accumulation of micro-influencers*
- **Lisa Yuk-ming LEUNG** (Lingnan University, Hong Kong): *Perceived 'micro-aggression' among racial minority workers across on and offline job sectors in Hong Kong*
- **Athina Avagianou, Stelios Gialis** (University of the Aegean): *Precarity and agency in youthspaces of work: the case of food delivery platform workers in Athens*

G10. The chronic crisis of precarious work

Room: 26, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Dominika Polkowska** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University)
- **Anna Kiersztyn** (University of Warsaw), **Katarzyna Kopycka** (University of Lodz): *Precarious careers among young professionals in Germany, Poland and the UK: a comparison across countries and occupations*
- **Beata Boór** (University of Vienna): *The value(s) of work for young people: analysing claims of age-based differences*
- **Stefan Bienkowski** (University of Warsaw): *„I'm better out of the system — on my own”: The Experience and Meaning of Non-standard Employment in Poland*
- **Hanna Szalecka** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan): *Gastro-problems. Precarity of Polish cater workers*
- **Ksawery Olczyk** (University of Lodz): *„Icarus Flight for Life”. — An analysis of the experience of precarious work in the stories of young food service workers*
- **Klara Babińska** (Lille University): *What kind of autonomy for the „unemployable” in an experimental French Return-to-Work Program?*

G11. Climate crisis and green transition

Room: 203, the Institute of Sociology

- Chair: **Szymon Pilch** (University of Wrocław)
- **Vasiliki Krommyda** (National Technical University of Athens), **Stelios Gialis** (University of the Aegean): *Transforming labour regimes in the context of a socio-ecological fix: The case of lignite phase-out in Western Macedonia, Greece*
- **Vassil Kirov** (Bulgarian Academy of Science): *Not yet Green and Digital? The challenges faced by the construction sector in Bulgaria*
- **Mauricio Torres** (University of Pará — UFPA), **Thais Borges de Farias** (University of Pará, Brazil), **Brian Garvey** (University of Strathclyde): *Mining the future: the porous boundaries of land and law*
- **Natasa Szabó** (Central European University): *Labour and the climate crisis: the effects of green transition and Chinese investments in the Hungarian automotive industry*
- **Stephanie Daher** (Grenoble School of Management): *When Sustainability initiatives and Indigenous Realities meet: Ontological Violence in the case of the 'Paiter Surui Carbon Credit REDD+ Project'*

G12. Professional groups in times of polycrisis — part I

Room: 27, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Justyna Zielińska** (The Maria Grzegorzewska University)
- **Marta Gospodarczyk** (University of Warsaw): *Drought, war, and the European Union — narratives of interlocking crises in the narratives of Polish farmers*
- **Ołga Czeranowska** (SWPS University in Warsaw): *Gender of career success? Definitions and experiences of career success in gender occupational minorities*
- **Małgorzata Suchacka** (University of Silesia in Katowice): *The role of universities in shaping market attitudes of entrepreneurship*
- **Hubert Kotarski, Agata Ludera-Ruszel** (University of Rzeszów): *Work-life balance — an analysis of the challenges of work-life balance among higher education staff*
- **Cagatay Edgucan Sahin** (Ordu University): *Dynamics of labor market and employment practices on substandard vessels: An ethnographic inquiry*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break (the Institute of Political Science)

11:30 - 13:30 Parallel thematic groups

G13. The world of work and therapeutic culture

Room: 203, the Institute of Sociology

- Chair: **Agata Krasowska** (University of Wrocław)
- **Katarzyna Waniek, Joanna Wygnańska** (University of Lodz): *Internet work as therapy*
- **Andrzej Frączysty** (University of Lodz): *What is 'worldwork'? The social in the perspective of therapeutic experts – the case of Process Oriented Psychology*
- **Alicja Pałęcka** (University of Warsaw): *Work refusal as self-care. Case studies of the practices of the Polish unemployed*
- **Jerzy Stachowiak** (University of Lodz): *Practical interest in the subordinates' psyche. On the problem of objectification*
- **Jacek Gądecki, Katarzyna Hetmańczyk, Wojciech Kowalik** (AGH University of Krakow): *The harder the better. Makers practices as work and a hobby*

G14. Popularization of remote work in critical perspective

Room: 25, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Olga Czeranowska** (SWPS University in Warsaw)
- **Michelle Mielly** (Grenoble School of Management), **Lena Kurban Rouhana** (American University of Dubai): *Flexible work arrangements and liquid flexibility: dissolving boundaries at the work-life confluence*
- **Zuzanna Kowalik** (University of Warsaw): *Working from home and job satisfaction: A mediating effect of organisational culture*
- **Azad Heydarov** (University of Wrocław): *Navigating new norms: the intersection of digital nomadism, tourism, migration, and the socio-economic implications of health and housing vulnerabilities*
- **Piotr Binder** (Polish Academy of Sciences): *Transformations of remote work in a longitudinal perspective — towards remote work models*

G15. Professional groups in times of polycrisis — part II

Room: 26, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Jacek Burski** (University of Wrocław)
- **Assaf Bondy** (University of Bristol), **Ronen Mandelkern** (Tel-Aviv University): *An odd couple? When mainstream economists join forces with trade unions*
- **Bartosz Mika**, **Wiktor Sokół** (University of Gdansk): *Professionalization as a social process. Creation of the occupation on the example of physiotherapists in Poland*
- **Ryszard Necel** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan): *Professional helpers in times of man-made disasters — COVID-19 Pandemic and refugee crisis after the war in Ukraine in the experience of social workers in Poland*
- **Michał Cebula** (University of Wrocław): *Social class, working conditions and resilience to crisis: An analysis of the Polish class structure*
- **Justyna Zielińska** (The Maria Grzegorzewska University): *Job quality in the professions of psychotherapists and psychiatrists in contemporary Poland*

G16. How the labour market turned the University into a student factory

Room: 27, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Aniela Partyga** (University of Wrocław)
- **Małgorzata Damek** (University of Wrocław): *Feminisation in higher education*
- **Adrian Prokopczyk**, **Piotr Woźniak** (University of Wrocław): *Changes in university infrastructure and its consequences for students*
- **Pola Melonowska** (University of Warsaw): *Celebrations in a student factory: the loss of collective joy and rituals on Juwenalia festivities in Poland*
- **Stefan Zaleski** (Polish Academy of Sciences): *Labor taxation as a source of social inequalities*

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch (📍 the Institute of Political Science)

14:30 - 16:30 Plenary session: Challenges and Perspectives of the Critical Labour Studies (📍 Auditorium A, the Institute of Political Science)

- Chair: **Adam Mrozowicki** (University of Wrocław)
- **David Ost** (Hobart and William Smith Colleges): *Why Workers Often Oppose Democracy?*
- **Bridget Kenny** (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg): *Trade unions and logistics in South Africa: Racial capitalism returned or new routes to organising?*
- **Julia Kubisa** (University of Warsaw): *Rules of engagement? Positioning the practice of public sociology in industrial relations research and cooperation with trade unions*

16:30 - 17:00 Closing remarks (📍 Auditorium A, the Institute of Political Science)