



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



Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski



arous  
European University Alliance



Sekcja Socjologii Pracy



Oddział Wrocławski



RC44

Labour  
Movements



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE  
POLAND



ResPeCTMe<sup>®</sup>

## → 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)

**9:00 - 9:30** Registration

**9:30 - 10:00** Opening of the conference: Patrycja Matusz (Vice-Rector for Internationalisation of the University of Wrocław), Magdalena Ratajczak (Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, UWr), Katarzyna Kajdanek (Vice-director, Institute of Sociology, UWr), Adam Mrozowicki (Department of the Sociology of Work and Economic Sociology, IS UWr, Sociology of Work Section, Polish Sociological Association)

**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 Gdańsk)
- 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)

**12:00 - 12:30** Coffee break

**12:30 - 14:30** Workshop II: *The ENDURE Community Resilience Lab. Labour migrants' organizing in a post-pandemic world*

- Chair: **Olga Gitkiewicz** (University of Wrocław, UWr)
- Introductory lecture: **Mateusz Karolak** (UWr), **Könül Jafarova** (UWr)
- Panelists: **Ewa Flaszyńska / Marcin Wiatrów** (Department of Labour Market, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy) [on-line], **Ignacy Jóźwiak** (OZZ IP / Workers' Initiative), **TBC** (UM Wrocław / Wrocław City Council / Wrocław Center for Social Development)

**14:30 - 15:30** Lunch

**15:30 - 17:30** Workshop III: *(Un)usual crisis of public services: the COV-WORK project*

- Chair: **Julia Kubisa** (University of Warsaw)
- Introductory lecture: **Jacek Burski** (University of Wrocław, UWr), **Jan Czarzasty** (SGH Warsaw School of Economics), **Aleksandra Drabina-Różewicz** (UWr), **Alicja Palęcka** (UW, SGH), **Szymon Pilch** (UWr), **Adam Mrozowicki** (UWr)
- Panelists: **Edyta Odyjas** (NSZZ Solidarność / Solidarity), **Zbigniew Żurek** (Business Centre Club), **Maria Magdalena Malinowska** (OZZ IP / Workers' Initiative), **Jacek Pluta** (UM Wrocław / Wrocław City Council)

**17:30 - 18:00** Open Day Final Discussion

\* 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).

→ 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*

**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 Mrożowicki** (University of Wrocław): *The (poly)crisis – game changer or continuation? Interlinked crises in the world of work*
- **Mateusz Karolak** (University of Wrocław), **Alicja Pałęcka** (University of Warsaw): *Do we need essential work? Unveiling narratives in and about essential sectors in Poland during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- **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 Mrożowicki** (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 Fedyuk** (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 Gdańsk)
- **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** (Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach): *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 Martínez 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*
- **Joanna "Asia" Tarach** (independent activist): *"What is your name?" Migrant identity in the light of the unique Belfast experience.*

**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 Hryniwicka-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 Łódź): *Policy of professional activation of people with disabilities in Poland from the perspective of cruel optimism. A thing about unfulfilled promises*
- **Jerzy Bielecki, Tomasz Płachecki** (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 Mrozowicki, 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)
- **Martina Kolářová Veveřková** (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 Łódź): *Emotions in the everyday medical staff work*

## G8. Care work in crises

Room: 27, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Dominika Polkowska** (Maria Curie-Sklodowska 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 Drążczyk** (University of Łódź): *When does work happen for Internet content creators? Exploring work-for-labor, the intelligentsia habitus, and social legitimization*
- **Kaja Kaźmierska** (University of Łódź): *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*

## G10. The chronic crisis of precarious work

Room: 26, the Institute of Political Science

- Chair: **Dominika Polkowska** (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)
- **Anna Kiersztyń** (University of Warsaw), **Katarzyna Kopycka** (University of Łódź): *Good luck trying to become a professor if you don't have family money — prolonged fixed-term employment at labor market entry in Germany, Poland and the UK*
- **Beata Boór** (University of Vienna): *The value(s) of work for young people: analysing claims of age-based differences*
- **Stefan Bieńkowski** (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 Poznań): *Gastro-problems. Precarity of Polish cater workers*
- **Ksawery Olczyk** (University of Łódź): *„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, Rumiiana Jeleva** (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 Suruí Carbon Credit REDD+ Project'*
- **Lucas Cifuentes** (University of Manchester): *Clean Energy Transition on Whose Shoulders: The Experience of the Strike by Workers in the Atacama Salt Flat*

## 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 interloping crises in the narratives of Polish farmers*
- **Olga 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*
- **Çagatay Edgucan Sahin** (Ordu University): *Dynamics of labor market and employment practices on substandard vessels: An ethnographic inquiry* [on-line]

**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 Wygańska** (University of Łódź): *Internet work as therapy*
- **Andrzej Frączysty** (University of Łódź): *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 Łódź): *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** (EM-Lyon 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 Gdańsk): *Professionalization as a social process. Creation of the occupation on the example of physiotherapists 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 Mrożowicki** (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)