

ESRC Seminar Series: Migrants, Workplace and Community: Learning from Innovation in Civil Society

Migrant Worker Initiatives and Established Labour Organisations

Organisers: Stefania Marino, Miguel Martínez Lucio and Stephen Mustchin

The question of trade unions and their responses to migration has become a central feature of the study of labour and employment relations and the sociology of work more generally. Recent research has engaged with the different ways trade unions have responded to the challenges facing migrant workers in a more precarious working environment and the way in which the broader body of regulation and rights can be sustained and enhanced. Trade unions respond in a variety of ways and attitudes and policies have varied greatly over time and according to the specific context. In recent years, there has been an emerging consensus regarding the need for a greater sensibility to issues of race and social exclusion.

In the current context, there is a growing awareness that the climate of growing xenophobia and the limited reach of trade unions have brought a new set of challenges to migrant communities and trade unions. In some cases, these challenges have generated new forms of worker organisation, e.g. new forms of independent models of representation and action within and beyond the main remit of traditional associations. Furthermore, the question of 'Brexit' and the emergence of a more ambivalent approach to migration issues in some trade union communications suggest a new set of challenges to the hopes of social inclusion and equality.

The Seminars will have speakers discussing developments in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. It will also have speakers discussing the new forms of worker organisations that are emerging and the problems presented by the current political and social climate. Details of the sessions will be announced soon. The main speakers and discussants will be Gabriella Alberti, Heather Connolly, Zita Holbourne, Stefania Marino, Miguel Martinez Lucio, Stephen Mustchin, Davide Pero, Judith Roosblad, Mohammed Taj and Michael Whittall.

Venue: Alliance Manchester Business School, Dover Street Building, room 1.037

Date: 25th November

Time: 9.30-4.30pm

Registration Event Brite http://esrc_seminar_series.eventbrite.co.uk



Programme:

- 9.30** **Welcome- Davide Pero', Nottingham University Business School**
Introduction- Stefania Marino, Miguel Martinez Lucio, Stephen Mustchin, *University of Manchester*
- 10.00 - 11.15** **Trade unions and labour migration in North-West Europe**
'The "Schatten" side of labour Migration in German – trade union responses to precarious employment practices' - Michael Whittall, *Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg*
'Trade unions and migrant workers in the Netherlands'- Judith Roosblad, *University of Amsterdam*
- 11.15-11.40** **Tea and Coffee**
- 11.40-1.30** **Trade unions and labour migration in the UK: Recent developments and dilemmas**
'A pattern of restriction of social and mobility rights for EU migrants in the UK? Implications for labour relations'- Gabriella Alberti, *University of Leeds*
'Trade union responses to migration in the UK: past lessons and future challenges'- Heather Connolly, *De Montford University*
Davide Pero', *University of Nottingham*
- 1.30-2.30** **Lunch**
- 2.30-4.30** **Roundtable: Where do trade unions go from here? Questions of racism and xenophobia**
Zita Holbourne, *BARAC & PCS*
Mohammed Taj, *Unite and Former President of TUC*
Discussant and chair Stephen Mustchin, *University of Manchester*