



XIIIth International Conference on Labour History
“Mapping Lives of Labour”

organised by

**Association of Indian Labour Historians,
&
V.V. Giri National Labour Institute
in collaboration with the**

**M.S. Merian - R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies
(November 11-16, 2021)**

DAY 1 Thursday, November 11 2021

Inaugural Session 5:00- 5:15 p.m.

Laila Abu-Er-Rub, ICAS:MP

SK Sasi Kumar, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute

Rana Behal, AILH

Session 1 5:15-6:05 p.m.

“Living” Labour

**Chair: Andreas Eckert (Humboldt-Universitat, Berlin) Discussant: Arun Kumar
(Nottingham University, U.K.)**

- **Karin Hofmeester(International Institute of Social History, IISG, Amsterdam) , Mapping the Lives of Labour of Diamond Workers in Amsterdam**
- **Dhiraj K Nite(Ambedkar University, Delhi), Worker Housing and State Welfare: Colliery Mineworkers in India and South Africa**

Break: 6:05 to 6:10 p.m.

Session 2 6:10 - 7:25 p.m.

Labouring lives on Land and Water

Chair: Shashi Upadhyay (Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi)

Discussants: Nitin Sinha (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) and Aditya Sarkar (Warwick University, U.K.)

- **Amol Saghar (University of Delhi)**, Land and Forms of Labour in Pallavan Tamilnadu c 4-9th Centuries
- **Titas Chakroborty (Duke Kunshan University)**, Labor and the ascendancy of the EIC state in Bengal, 1650-1817
- **Eléonore Chanlat-Bernard, (EHESS, Paris)** Famine as a Periodical Work Crisis: the Colonial Gaze on Indian Labour and Fragments of Indian Labouring Lives in the second half of the Nineteenth Century (1860's to 1900's)

Labour in the Archives

7:25pm onwards

Chair: Janaki Nair (Formerly Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

- **Ranjit Kandalgaonkar (City Influx)**, Sounding out the Labour Archive
- **Naveen Chander (Research Associate, ICAS)**, Archives of Indian Labour

DAY 2 Friday, November 12 2021

Session 1 5:00 - 5:50 p.m.

"Working" the Law

Chair: Kamala Sankaran (University of Delhi) Discussant: Alessandro Stanziani (EHESS)

- **Christine Molfenter (University of Heidelberg, Germany)**, Judicial Interpretation of Anti-Slavery Legislation in Bonded Labour Cases 1860-1950
- **Megha Sharma (JNU)**, Judicial Tribunals of Delhi 1947-1970 and the Possibility of Justice

Break 5:50- 5:55 p.m.

Session 2 5:55 - 7:10 p.m.

Labouring Lives in Bondage

Chair: Henrique Espada Lima (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil)

Discussants: Mathias Von Rossum (IISG, Amsterdam) and Nitin Varma

(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

- **Yaruipam Muivah (EHES),** Regulating Slavery, The Bawi Question in Colonial Lushai Hills
- **Jéssyka Sâmia (University of Campinas, Brazil),** Neither Slave nor Free: coercion and free labor in the Amazon, 19th Century
- **Alexander Geelen (IISG),** Testimonies of Enslavement

Session 3 7:10 - 8:00 p.m.

City Lights: Working Lives

Chair: Indu Agnihotri (AILH) Discussant: Shahana Bhattacharya (University of Delhi)

- **Debolina Majumdar (Cambridge University, U.K.),** Construction Lives: Labour and City in 20 th Century Delhi
- **Shankar Ramaswamy (O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana),** “Warp and Weft: Entanglement, Empathy, and Fellowship Among Migrant Workers in Delhi”

Day 3 Saturday, November 13 2021

Session 1 5:00 - 5:50 p.m.

Animals and Children: Regulated Work

Chair: Awadhendra Sharan (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi)

Discussant: Deepanshu Mohan (O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana)

- **Heeral Chhabra (University of Delhi),** Regulating Lives of Animal Labour through Laws of Colonial India: Investigating Case of ‘Military Transport Animals’ in Colonial Punjab
- **Maya John (University of Delhi),** Regulating the ‘Half’-timer in Colonial India: Factory Legislation, Everyday Lives of Child Labourers and their Resistance

Session 2 5:50 - 6:40 p.m.

Living and Resisting Precarity

Chair: Denys Leighton (O.P. Jindal Global University) Discussant: Anish Vanaik (Purdue Honors College)

- **Mallika Shakya (South Asian University, Delhi)**, The Inheritance of Loss: the Garment Industry Afterlife in Kathmandu
- **Karuna Dietrich Wielenga (Azim Premji University, Bangalore)**, Unions in the Informal Sector: Madras Presidency during the decades around Independence

Break: 6:40 - 6:45 p.m.

Session 3 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

Crafting Lives of Labour

Chair : Ravi Ahuja (Georg-August-University Göttingen) Discussants: Karuna Dietrich Wielenga and Rukmini Barua (Max Planck Institute for Human Development)

- **Arun Kumar**, Nights of the Bombay Worker: Neighbourhood Night Schools and Emancipatory Dreams (1870-1920)
- **Arnaud Kaba (Former Fellow, ICAS)**, Mapping the Lives of Labour in Firozabad: Towards the Dusk of a Craftsman Culture?
- **Santosh Kumar Rai (University of Delhi)**, Weaving lives at work: Apprenticeship Discourse in Early Twentieth Century India

Day 4: Monday, November 15 2021

5:00-5:45 p.m.

Chair: Dilip Simeon (AILH)

Keynote Address: Marcel Van Der Linden (IISG)

“Sabyasachi Bhattacharya: The Labouring Poor, and the Global Social Question”

Session 1 5:45-6:35 p.m.

Working Lives in the Service Sector

Chair: Jan Lucassen (IISG) Discussant: Maya John

- **Perna Agarwal (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)**, Transformation of Clerk's Association into a Worker's Union: Practices of Solidarity in Interwar Calcutta Port
- **Christa Wichterich (Former Fellow, ICAS)**, Narratives and Subjectivities of Scheme Work and Health Care Work in the Neo-Liberal Patriarchal Context of India

Break: 6:35 - 6:40 p.m.

Session 2 6:40 - 7:55 p.m.

Organising Labour: Crafting Selves

Chair: Leon Fink (University of Illinois, Urbana- Champagne) Discussants: Sumeet Mhaskar (O.P. Jindal Global University) and Babu Ramesh (AUD)

- **Rajesh Joseph, Balmurli Natarajan and Roshni Lobo (APU)** , Unions and Labour NGO's: The Structural Conditions for Success of Domestic Workers Union
- **Aardra Surendran (Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad)**, Industry, Work and the Nation: Inter-generational Lives in the Public Sector
- **Robert Rahman Raman (Georg-August-University Göttingen)**, Establishing 'Workers Raj': The Rhetoric of the Left and Bombay's Mill Workers

Round Table: "Whither Labour? Whither Labour History? -After the Pandemic"

7:55 to 8:55pm

Chair: Indu Agnihotri

Moderator: Prabhu Mohapatra (AILH)

Discussants: Leon Fink, Marcelo Badaró Mattos (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil), Samita Sen (University of Cambridge), Leo Lucassen (IISG), Amarjeet Kaur, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

Day 5: Tuesday, November 16 2021

Session 1 5:00-5:50 p.m.

Mobile Workers, Precarious Lives

Chair: Radhika Singha (JNU) Discussant: Zaen Alkazi (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

- **Leo Lucassen**, Mob Violence against Free Labour Migrants: A Long Term Global Approach
- **Ritesh Kumar Jaiswal (University of Delhi)**, Racialisation of Ceylonese Politics: A Critical Assessment of Repercussions of the Great Depression on the Afterlives of Tea and Rubber Plantation Workers and the Patterns of Indian Migration (c. 1939-1940)

Session 2 5:50 - 6:40 p.m.

Precarious Lives, "Marginal" Work

Chair: Babacar Fall (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal) Discussant: Chitra Joshi (AILH)

- **Marcelo Badaro Mattos**, Mapping working class and precariousness in contemporary capitalism
- **Kalyan Shankar, Rohini Sahni, Harshad Barde and Shrenik Mutha (Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, Maharashtra)**, Using the Legal Stick Against Labour: Integrating Waste Pickers in Municipal Waste Contracts

Break: 6:40 - 6:45 p.m.

Second Round Table: 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Mapping Lives of Labour

Chair: Andreas Eckert

Moderator: Chitra Joshi

Discussants: Alessandro Stanziani, Jan Lucassen, Karuna Dietrich Wielenga, Marcel Van Der Linden, Shankar Ramaswamy.

Vote of Thanks

7:45pm Onwards