



MEETING OF THE ELHN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 January 2022 (online)

Present : Eszter Varsa (Feminist Labour History), Lorenzo Costaguta (Labour and Empire), Viola Müller (Labour and Coercion), Jordi Ibarz (Maritime Labour History), Susan Zimmermann (Feminist Labour History), Helle Stenum (Arctic and Indigenous Labour) Christian Wicke (Memory and Deindustrialization), Rory Archer (Labour Migration History), Cristina Borderias (Labour and Family Economy), Christine de Matos (Military Labour), Francesca Sanna (Labour in Mining), Camille Fauroux (Network France : AFHMT), Sigfrido Ramirez (European Trade Unionism), Görkem Akgoz (Workplaces: pasts and presents), Leda Papastefanaki (committee), Matthias van Rossum (committee), Donald Weber (committee) and Jacqueline Rutte (committee)

The meeting starts at 10.30.

1. Opening

Leda opens the meeting by welcoming all and wishing them a happy and healthy 2022.

A special welcome to the new coordinators Eszter Varsa (Feminist Labour History) and Lorenzo Costaguta (Labour and Empire).

2. Minutes 22 March 2021

The correct spelling of the new working group is: Arctic and Indigenous Labour.
No other corrections to the minutes.

3. Working Groups

The new working group Arctic and Indigenous Labour. The coordinators are Helle Stenum and Silke Neunsinger. Donald invites them to send text so that he can create a page for this working group on the website.

New in this meeting are Eszter Varsa (Feminist Labour History) and Lorenzo Costaguta (Labour and Empire).

Donald announces that later this year the recordings of the Roundtable meeting of last June will be published on the website.

All ideas for more cooperation between the working groups are most welcome.

Viola Müller (Labour and Coercion) announces a training school in Warsaw:
<https://socialhistoryportal.org/news/articles/310943>

Susan Zimmermann (Feminist Labour History) announces that Eloisa Betti, Leda Papastefanaki, Marica Tolomelli and Susan Zimmermann published and edited a forthcoming volume:
<https://ceupress.com/book/women-work-and-activism>

Christine de Matos (Military Labour) will organize quarterly workshops with different themes. The first workshop took place last November and the next one will be in February. She will send all the information to Donald to be posted on the website.

Rory Archer (Labour Migration History) says that his working group is preparing a special section of the journal "Labor and Working-Class History" during 2022-23 preliminary titled "The Cold War of Labour Migrants: Opportunities, struggles and adaptations across the Iron Curtain and beyond".

Lorenzo Costaguta (Labour and Empire) announces that the WG is planning a small conference at the university of Bristol. The plans are still in an early stage, more information will follow later.

Sigfrido Ramirez (European Trade Unionism) will organize a European Trade Union conference coming June and a workshop in November. At this moment they are still writing the call for papers. Sigfrido will send the call to Donald in due course.

Christian Wicke (Memory and Deindustrialization), Stefan Berger and Stefano Musso published an edited volume:

<https://link.springer.com/book/9783030896300>

He also published the conference report 'Remembering Toxic Pasts? Memory, Deindustrialisation and the Environment'. Sessions of the Working Group "Memory and Deindustrialisation" at the 4th Conference of the European Labour History Network.

<https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-9247>

Francesca Sanna (Labour in Mining) invites all to visit their blogs on the webpage. Two issues are published and the third one will follow soon. Registration is possible.
<https://lim.hypotheses.org/>

Cristina Borderias (Labour and Family Economy) is working on the consolidation of her working group. They published special issues about the economic crisis and precarious work and small industries. They are currently working on a blog.
<https://lfe.hypotheses.org/>

Jordi Ibarz (Maritime Labour History) is working on an ERC project. They will have meetings in Paris and in Porto.

Görkem Akgoz (Workplaces: pasts and presents) announces that they changed the name of the working group from "Factory History" to "Workplaces: pasts and presents". They launched a podcast and are currently working on the second edition. <https://anchor.fm/workplacematters/episodes/The-Historical-Transformation-of-the-Workplace-roundtable-e19s7jv>

They created an Omeka platform with sources, images and maps: <https://workplaces.omeka.net/exhibits>

They make use of twitter and slack for communication. A special issue is forthcoming. Their working group has 100 members.

4. Next conference Uppsala

Due to the Nordic conference that takes place today none of the organizers of the Uppsala conference are able to attend this meeting. We are in contact with the organizers, and since the conference will take place in 2024 there is enough time to prepare. Later this year we will receive more information.

An idea is to organize ELHN sessions during the upcoming ESSHC conference in Gothenburg in 2023. The deadline for sessions with the ESSHC is 15 April 2022.

5. Next Roundtable 7 April 2022 (15-17 CEST)

Leda sent invitations to some of the ELHN working groups to give presentations during the upcoming Roundtable on April 7th.

6. Functioning of the Network

Leda says that this issue is to discuss in general how can we improve the communication among us, between the coordinators of the working groups and the members of the working groups. As the working groups are the backbone of the ELHN, we would like to think about the ways the members of the working groups are informed about proposals and discussions in the network and in the GA. The network committee does not have concrete proposals to improve communication between the members of the working groups. Ideas could be to write newsletters, invite working group members to participate in the GA meeting without giving them voting rights. The working groups work from the principal 'bottom up' participation. How can communication be improved and a lively democratic network be created? Susan Zimmermann thinks it is a good idea to invite the members for the GA meeting. She also thinks that voting for new network committee members should not be done during the GA meeting. Working groups should cast their votes prior to the GA meeting. In that case 2 meetings are needed, one preparatory meeting and a decision making meeting. After the preparatory meeting the working groups have the time to consult their members.

Christian Wicke says the next election could possibly be: 1. presentation of candidates and discussion during open assembly where everyone is invited, possibly

at the start of the conference. 2. Discussion within the working groups. 3 Voting electronically at the end of the conference, or another short meeting with WG coordinators only.

Camille Fauroux adds to Christian's idea's that she would like the members of the regional networks to be included in the discussion of the working groups (without the right to vote).

Gorkem says I think Christian's formulation makes sense except if we have the elections right at the end of the conference, it brings too much pressure on the coordinators during the conference to collect ideas from WG members, follow discussions on the WG vote etc. So I think there should be another meeting after the conference with WG coordinators where we cast our vote.

Leda agrees that a better procedure must be developed based on the proposals of Susan, Christian and Gorkem. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Website

Donald informs us that the work on the website is going fine. He posts all calls and other news items that he receives. Next month the recording of the first roundtable will be posted online. Donald will also post the ESSHC call on the site.

The working group coordinators do not have accounts for their pages. Some working groups have their own blogs. It is an idea to incorporate those blogs into the ELHN pages.

Please send all your information regarding calls etc. to Donald (or Jacqueline).

Donald is also open for feedback on the website.

Viola proposes to include links to the blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter handles of the WGs (in case they use such outlets)

8. Date next GA meeting

The next GA meeting will be planned round the end of September/beginning October. It could maybe be combined with a small event during the Greek Economic History Association conference in Athens.

9. Any other business

Leda thanks all the participants for being present at the meeting, we will stay connected. Please keep us informed about your news.