

Newsletter N. 1: Getting started

Dear members of the ELHN Working Group “Free and Unfree Labour”

It has been a while since you have heard from us, but the organisational framework of our working group is now taking shape and it is high time to inform you about the ongoing projects.

This is the first ELHN “Free and Unfree” Newsletter containing (1) a short progress report from the coordination team, (2) planned activities of the ELHN and our working group and (3) other subject-related events or publications that might be of interest for some of you or the working group as a whole.

From now on, we will send you a newsletter roughly every three months in order to keep each other informed and connected. If you would like to make the group aware of conferences, panels or publications of yourself or your colleagues, please send a short note with the relevant information to juliane.schiel@hist.uzh.ch and we will include it in the next newsletter.

Progress Report

In May this year, the first activity of our working group took place in Spain. In cooperation with the “Grupo Taller de Historia Social”, members of the ELHN Working Group “Free and Unfree Labour” organised a conference on “Slavery and Forced Labour in 16th to 19th Century Spain and Hispanic America, at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. A conference report may be found in the appendix to this e-mail.

In July, the coordination of the working group was extended. Besides Christian De Vito (University of Leicester), it now includes Matthias van Rossum (Leiden University), Jesús Agua de la Roza (University of Madrid) and Juliane Schiel (University of Zurich). In cooperation with the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam, we are now developing a **public website** of our working group and a **digital platform** for internal use. Both should be online before the end of the year.

For the time being, we rely on our joint spreadsheet on google.docs and on our group entry on academia.edu.

Link to spreadsheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AjfR4Eoff85QdFZQS0hUZjFCcVM5MFE1VUtiZFdhYVE&usp=doclist_api#gid=0

Link to academia.edu:

https://www.academia.edu/Documents/in/Free_and_Unfree_Labour

Please make use of these two means of internal exchange and communication and don't hesitate to inform us about your ideas and wishes for the working group.

ELHN Activities

In **December 2015**, the first **ELHN conference** will take place in **Turin, Italy**. As soon as the exact date is fixed, we will let you know immediately.

For this conference, we are planning a **panel on “free and unfree labour”** where we will have the chance to meet in person and to transform our group from a loose network of communication into a proper working group exchanging concepts and ideas and pushing research on free and unfree labour a step further.

In order to do so, we ask those of you who are interested in this joint project to send us a **short working paper (minimum 3 pages)** in which you debate free and unfree labour on the basis of your own research material and your personal theoretical and methodological perspective. Please submit your paper **by December 15, 2014**, at the latest. Some of you have already sent us such a paper and we would like to thank you for these important and inspiring inputs. Yet, it would be great to get a still wider array of the research done by members of our working group, before we start discussing them among us on our forthcoming digital platform. Besides internal discussion, these working papers will then also **serve as extended abstracts for our future panel proposals at the ELHN conference**.

Subject-Related Activities (planned)

- Funding Programme for “Forced Labour and Forgotten Victims” (closing date for applications: 02-01-2015): <http://www.stiftung-evz.de/eng/funding/critical-examination-of-history/lbp00.html>
- International Conference on “Slaving Zones: Cultural Identities, Ideologies and Institutions in the Evolution of Global Slavery”, 1–2 June 2015, at Leiden University, organised by Jeff Fynn-Paul, Damian Pargas and Karwan Fatah-Black: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/11465/discussions/29303/cfp-slaving-zones-cultural-identities-ideologies-and-institutions>
- Session on “Global Impact of Slave Trade and Slavery – a comparative approach” at the World Economic History Conference, 3–7 August 2015, in Kyoto (Japan), organised by Karwan Fatah-Black and Matthias van Rossum: <http://www.wehc2015.org>
- International Conference on “The Carceral Archipelago: Transnational Circulations in Global Perspective, 1415–1960”, 13–15 September 2015, at the University of Leicester, organised by Clare Anderson: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/history/research/grants/CArchipelago/CArchipelago>

Subject-Related Publications (just released)

- Hanß, Stefan/Schiel, Juliane (Ed.): *Mediterranean Slavery Revisited (500–1800) / Neue Perspektiven auf mediterrane Sklaverei (500–1800)*, Zürich: Chronos 2014: http://www.chronos-verlag.ch/php/book_latest-new.php?book=978-3-0340-1233-1&type=Inhalt_Sammelband

- Laviña, Javier/Zeuske, Michael (Ed.): *The Second Slavery. Mass Slaveries and Modernity in the Americas and in the Atlantic Basin*, Berlin et al.: LIT Verlag 2014.

Best wishes,

Christian De Vito, Matthias van Rossum, Jesús Agua de la Roza and Juliane Schiel.