

Newsletter N. 2: First ELHN Conference – Call for Ideas!

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

First of all we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and fruitful New Year! It will be an important year for the *European Labour History Network* and for our working group and we are very much looking forward to the ideas and projects we are going to develop together over the year.

In this newsletter we would like to inform you about (1) our plans for the first ELHN conference taking place 14–16 December 2015 in Turin, (2) other planned and (3) past subject-related events and (4) publications that might be of interest for some of you or the working group as a whole.

In addition, we have a rather unpleasant note: Preparations for our working group website and the internal platform have stalled for the moment due to questions of funding and competence within the greater ELHN network. If anyone of you has experiences with the setup of websites or virtual platforms and would like to support us, we are more than grateful. However, we will keep working on it.

Last, but not least: 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 free.unfree.labour@gmail.com and we will include it in the next newsletter.

First ELHN Conference

From 14 to 16 December 2015, the first ELHN Conference will take place in Turin (Italy). In accordance with the decisions of the foundation meeting of the ELHN, this conference will be structured differently to other comparable scholarly conferences and will also provide the possibility to gather colleagues from all over Europe in order to work on specific common projects concerning *European Labour History*. Therefore, the main part of the conference will be dedicated to ELHN Working Groups that will themselves decide on their specific agenda during the conference. The conference will start with a keynote lecture and conclude with a plenary session for all ELHN members, while in between we have eight time slots to be filled with working group activities and debates.

Now, we would like to take the working papers you have already sent us (or you might still want to send) as a basis for a fruitful exchange and suggest four thematic sessions framed by two network meetings, an aperitif party for book presentations and two round table discussions in the beginning (“What is free and unfree in labour relations?”) and at the end (“Is there a historical tendency from free to unfree labour relations?”). For the thematic sessions, ideas for sessions or individual contributions can be submitted before **15 February 2015**. Please have a look at the CFP attached to this e-mail for further information.

Subject-Related Activities (planned)

- Conference Stream “**The Meaning of Work and Loss of Work in Historical Perspective**”, organised by Andrew Perchard and Keith Gildart, at the *International Labour Process Conference* 13–15 April 2015, Athens (Greece).
- Conference on “**Trafficking, Smuggling, and Illicit Migration in Historical Perspective**”, 18–20 Juni 2015, London, organised by Julia Laite, Laura Lammasniemi, Jessica Pliley and Philippa Hetherington. For further information see: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/events-calendar/trafficking-smuggling-and-illicit-migration-in-historical-perspective-call-for-papers>.
- Session on “**Global Impact of Slave Trade and Slavery – A Comparative Approach**” at the *World Economic History Congress* (“Diversity in Development”), 3–7 August 2015, Kyoto. The session is organised by Karwan Fatah-Black and Matthias van Rossum. For further information see: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/5293/discussions/6737/cfp-global-impact-slave-trade-and-slavery-kyoto-august-2015>.
- *European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC)*, 30 March – 2 April 2016, Valencia. The **ESSHC Labour Network** welcomes paper and session proposals on free and unfree labour and other labour-related topics, and for the **special sessions entitled “Labour History: Where do we stand?”**. If you wish to propose a paper or a session, you will have to send your abstract by 1 May 2015. For further information see the attached CFP of the ESSHC Labour Network and the ESSHC website: <https://esshc.socialhistory.org/esshc-valencia-2016>.
- **New BRILL Series “Studies in Global Slavery”**: The series provides a venue for scholarly work – research monographs and edited volumes – that advances our understanding of the history of slavery and post-slavery in any period and any geographical region. The series will publish at least 2 volumes per year. Manuscripts should be written in English and be at least 80,000 words in length (for further information see: PDF-file “Brill SIGS Flyer”).

Subject-related Activities (in the past)

- *International Conference of Labour and Social History (ITH)* on “**Work and Compulsion: Coerced Labour in Domestic, Service, Agricultural, Factory and Sex Work, ca. 1850–2000s**”, 26–28 September 2014, Linz. For details see report from Dietmar Lange in *ITH_Newsletter_vol_51_1*.
- Workshop on “**Mediterranean Piracy and Narratives about Captivity**”, 13–14 November 2014, organised by the FWF-funded ESCAPE project (“European Slaves: Christian and African Pirate Encounters”) at the University of Innsbruck. For further information see the report attached.

Subject-Related Publications (just released)

- Aurelia Martín Casares/Rocío Perriáñez Gómez (Eds.): *Mujeres esclavas y abolicionistas en la España de los siglos XVI–XIX* (Tiempo emulado. Historia de América y España), Madrid et al. 2014.
- Joachim Östlund: *Saltets Pris. Svenska slavar I Nordafrika och handeln I Medelhavet 1650–1770*, Lund 2014.

- Alessandro Stanziani: *Bondage. Labor and Rights in Eurasia from the Sixteenth to the Early Twentieth Centuries* (International Studies in Social History 24), New York/Oxford 2014.
- Andrea Komlosy, *Arbeit. Eine globalhistorische Perspektive. 13. bis 21. Jahrhundert*, Wien 2014.

We are very much looking forward to your suggestions, ideas and comments!

Best wishes,

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