

Newsletter N. 3: Preliminary Programme of the First ELHN Conference at Turin

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

The **first conference of the European Labour History Network** is taking shape. As you already know, the event will take place from **14 to 16 December 2015 at the University of Turin** and will be hosted by Stefano Musso, President of the Italian Society of Labour History (SISLAv). The main aim of this first official gathering is to make the working groups, which are at the heart of the network, a reality. The whole programme of the conference will therefore be based on the ideas and projects of the working group members.

In the last couple of months, many of you have gratefully contributed to the programme with panel and paper proposals which we have now put together to a three days working group programme. As you may see from the attached file, the programme consists of **three different types of events**:

(1) We will have **group meetings** where we meet in order to get to know each other, to learn about our respective work, actual projects and recent publications and to develop a joint research strategy for our group.

(2) We will have **round table discussions** on very general and fundamental questions of unfree labour relations, dedicated to an open exchange between our group and other network members present at Turin.

(3) And we will have **thematic sessions** where we would like to bring together our respective expertise and start contentual discussion among the members of our group.

Please have a close look at the **preliminary programme** and do not hesitate to comment on the existing ideas and to bring in your know-how in order to make it a good start for our group. Also, we thought that the thematic sessions could be chaired and/or commented by members of our working group who feel competent for the specific topic and could eventually add a missing aspect to the discussion. So please let us know if you discover a session you would like to chair or comment.

Furthermore, we would like to inform you about some organisational and logistic details concerning the Turin conference. The bad news comes first: **Unfortunately, neither the network nor the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam will be able to pay for our travelling and lodging**. We are therefore asked to look for individual funding possibilities and we recommend you to ask your home university or other institutions or foundations in your country for funding.

There will also be **conference fees**, but they will be very low and will only be used to cover the extra-costs of the event. The network committee has approved a four-stage system:

- 80 EUR for those with full institutional coverage
- 40 EUR for those who will pay directly
- 20 EUR for students and unemployed
- 0 EUR for excepted people (case by case)

The conference will be opened by a **general introduction of Marcel van der Linden** and a **keynote lecture by Geoff Eley**. Meetings of the national labour history societies and networks will take during the conference and will probably be organised in a venue outside the campus.

By the end of September, a draft **programme of the whole conference** and information on lodging possibilities in Turin will be circulated. For the time being, CFPs have been issued by other (potential or existing) networks – see attached document. Please note that if you are already a speaker in one of the Free and Unfree Labour group sessions and roundtables, you shouldn't be joining other sessions as speaker.

The **digital platform of the network** is still under construction. The process was unfortunately interrupted due to the unclear financial situation of the network, which is however going to be resolved this year.

Of course we hope to see as many of you as possible at Turin in order to make this conference a success. If you decide to come, we would be happy if you could send us a quick e-mail to free.unfree.labour@gmail.com so that we can start the detailed planning of the event. An official inscription will follow in September/October.

Furthermore, we would like to inform you that the creation of a **Global Labour History Network** is in preparation. The network will be based on the experiences of the European Labour History Network, and the ELHN working groups may function as potential bases for the future GLHN groups. A more definitive decision on the general goals and structure of the network, however, will be taken during the ELHN Conference at Turin.

Subject-Related Activities (planned)

- Session on “**Global Impact of Slave Trade and Slavery – A Comparative Approach**”, organised by Karwan Fatah-Black and Matthias van Rossum, at the World Economic History Congress “Diversity in Development”, 3–7 August 2015, Kyoto.
- First Iberoamerican Congress on “**Labour Relations and Human Resources Management. Labour Relations Systems from the 19th Century to the Present**”, 28–29 January 2016, Seville. For further information see PDF attached.
- International Conference on “**Gender, Household Labour Relations and (Post)Colonialism, 1800-present**”, 25–27 July 2016, Yogyakarta (Indonesia). For further information see PDF attached.
- International Conference on “**Runaways: Desertion and Mobility in Global Labor History, c. 1650–1850**”, 22–23 October 2015, IISH Amsterdam.

Subject-related Activities (in the past)

- *International Conference* on “**Slaving Zones: Cultural Identities, Ideologies, and Institutions in the Evolution of Global Slavery**”, 1–2 June 2015, Leiden. For more details see <http://www.hum.leiden.edu/history/slaving-zones>.

Subject-Related Publications (just released)

- Doris Bulach/Juliane Schiel (Ed.): **Europas Sklaven** (WerkstattGeschichte, vol. 66-67), Essen 2015.
With contributions from Klaus Weber, Undine Ott, Karwan Fatah-Black/Matthias van Rossum, Magnus Ressel, Manja Quakatz, Joachim Östlund, Dienne Hondius and Ludolf Kuchenbuch (most of them members of our ELHN working group!).
- Christian G. De Vito/Alex Lichtenstein (Ed.): **Global Convict Labour**, Leiden and Boston 2015.
With contributions from Christian G. De Vito and Alex Lichtenstein, Miriam J. Groen-Vallinga and Laurens Tacoma, Alice Rio, Pieter Spierenburg, Stephan Stiner, Timothy J. Coates, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, David Arnold, Jean-Lucien Sanchez, Stacey Hynd, Ricardo D. Salvatore and Carlos Aguirre, Mary Gibson, Marc Buggeln, Lynne Viola, Padraic Kenney and Heather Ann Thompson.

Job Advertisements (still open)

- The ERC Consolidator Grant **“The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and Its Slaves”** (Project N° 641110), under the direction of Prof. Dr. Rebekka v. Mallinckrodt (Early Modern History, University of Bremen), is calling for applications for the following positions:
 - 2 PhD positions for a 3-year period with the possibility of a 4th year extension
 - 1 Postdoc position for a 3-year period with the possibility of a 4th year extension
 - 1 Research assistant for a period of 5 years
 - 1 university lecturer in the History of Early Modern Period for a period of 5 years

Applications should be sent until 5 July 2015. For further information see PDF attached.

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.