

ELHN Working Group “Free and Unfree Labour”

Newsletter N. 5: Moving Forward!

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

The first conference of the European Labour History Network (ELHN), held in Turin on 14-16 December 2016, was a great success. The participation was high, the debates were lively, and new working groups emerged from the conference which will continue their activities. The bottom-up structure of the ELHN – prioritarily based on the self-organised activities of the working groups rather than on a centralised programme – featured well, and made the event distinctive vis-à-vis other scholarly meetings. The next conference will take place in two years – in Paris or Budapest – and by that time the federation of the European network with similar endeavours in other continents will make the Global Labour History Network a reality.

With two round-tables, four thematic sessions, and two group meetings, our working group made a substantial contribution to the ELHN conference. The sessions were well attended and coherent, the debate was lively, and new members joined our group (don't forget to check the spreadsheet!). **Tobias Auböck's** report provides some glimpses of the atmosphere of one session. In another attachment we gladly host **Giulio Ongaro's** report of the session he convened on *Military labour between the 15th to the 20th centuries*. Although not officially part of our group's programme, this addressed key issues of the “free/unfree labour” debates.

As we argue in our think-piece ***Moving Free and Unfree Labour Forward – Notes on Turin***, the discussion in Turin provided much more than a forum to address specific aspects of free and unfree labour. Indeed, it pointed to both the urgency and opportunity to move the debate on free and unfree labour forward. In our contribution we seek to foreground some of the upcoming issues, questions, theoretical approaches, and research strategies that emerged from our pleasant conversation in Turin. We will continue this conversation in the events we are convening this year:

- **Session *Why and How do Shifts in Labour Relations Take Place?* at the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC), Valencia, 30 March-2 April 2016.** A social meeting of our working group will take place on Wednesday evening (30 March).
- **The Free and Unfree Labour workshop, to be held at the International Institute of Social History (IISH), Amsterdam in October 2016** (possibly Friday 7 and Saturday 8). This will be a two-days meeting of our working group, with plenty of chances to meet personally, address our topics, and discuss the future of our group.

In the meanwhile, if you would like to react on our Notes on Turin, please feel free! We would then post your reactions in the next newsletter and bring them into our workshop debates in Valencia and Amsterdam.

Subject-Related Activities (planned)

- **Domestic Slavery, 15th-Centuries Sources, Cross-Perspectives and Definitions**, EHESS, Paris, 24-25 March 2016. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/11419/discussions/88657/cfp-domestic-slavery-15th-19th-centuries-sources-cross-perspectives>
- **Piracy and Captivity in the Mediterranean: 1530-1810. Barbary Coast Captivity Narratives**, University of Innsbruck, Austria, 16-18 June 2016 – <http://www.uibk.ac.at/projects/escape/conference/>
- **Between the State and the Site of Production: The Making of Informal Labour Relations**, International Workshop, 26-27 September 2016, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. CFP until 15 March, see: <http://www.maxweberstiftung.de/aktuelles/termine/einzelansicht-veranstaltungen/datum/2016/09/26/between-the-state-and-the-site-of-production-the-making-of-informal-labour-relations.html>

Subject-Related Publications (recent and just released)

- Spittler, Gerd: **Anthropologie der Arbeit. Ein ethnographischer Vergleich**, 2016.
- Anita Rupprecht/Cathy Bergin (Ed.): **Reparative Histories: Radical Narratives of 'Race' and Resistance**, in: *Race & Class* 1, 2016.
- Peter M. Beattie, **Punishment in Paradise: Race, Slavery, Human Rights, and a Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Penal Colony**, Duke University Press, 2015 – <https://www.dukeupress.edu/punishment-in-paradise>
- Matthias van Rossum, Jeannette Kamp eds., **Desertion in the Early Modern World. A Comparative History**, Bloomsbury, 2016 – <http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/desertion-in-the-early-modern-world-9781474216012/>
- Raffaella Sarti, **Servo e padrone, o della (in)dipendenza. Un percorso da Aristotele ai nostri giorni**, vol. I. Teorie e dibattiti. Quaderno di "Scienza & Politica", n. 2, 2015 – http://amsacta.unibo.it/4293/1/Sarti_Servo_e_Padrone_1.pdf
- Alessandro Stanziani, **Sailors, Slaves, and Immigrants. Bondage in the Indian Ocean World, 1750-1914**, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014 – <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137448453>
- John Donoghue, Evelyn P. Jennings eds., **Building the Atlantic Empires: Unfree Labor and Imperial States in the Political Economy of Capitalism, ca. 1500-1914**, Brill, 2015 – <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/9789004285200;jsessionid=19sfltf164.x-brill-live-03>
- Luuk de Ligt, Laurens E. Tacoma eds., **Migration and Mobility in the Early Roman Empire**, Brill, 2016 – <http://www.brill.com/products/book/migration-and-mobility-early-roman-empire>

- Tatiana Seijas, ***Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico. From Chinos to Indios***, Cambridge University Press, 2015 – <http://www.cambridge.org/it/academic/subjects/history/latin-american-history/asian-slaves-colonial-mexico-chinos-indians?format=PB>
- Simonetta Cavaciocchi ed., ***Schiavitù e servaggio nell'economia europea. Secc. XI-XVIII – Serfdom and Slavery in the European Economy 11th-18th Centuries***, Firenze University Press, 2014 – <http://www.fupress.com/catalogo/schiavitu-e-servaggio-nell%E2%80%99economia-europea-secc--xi-xviii---serfdom-and-slavery-in-the-european-economy-11th-18-th-centuries/2751>
- Eva Mehl, ***Forced Migration in the Spanish Pacific World: From Mexico to the Philippines, 1765-1811***, Cambridge University Press (in print) – <http://www.cambridge.org/is/academic/subjects/history/latin-american-history/forced-migration-spanish-pacific-world-mexico-philippines-17651811?format=HB>

Job Advertisements (still open)

- PhD Scholarship in the Indian Ocean World History, Asia Research Center, Murdoch University: <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/Asia-Research-Centre/The-Research/Indian-Ocean-World/>

Best wishes,

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