

Call for participation

Labour, mobilization, and the politics of work: A Doctoral Schools Course

10th, 11th & 12th December 2024 at Ghent University

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This doctoral course invites PhD students to critically explore the identities and struggles of workers, emphasizing the importance of participatory research approaches. It challenges conventional views that marginalize workers and positions researchers as neutral observers, advocating instead for active participation in knowledge production. Amid a world dominated by neoliberal ideologies that exacerbate inequalities and erode workers' rights, this course seeks to refocus attention on workers' experiences and agency. More than just an academic pursuit, this course is committed to fostering research that is both academically rigorous and socially impactful, inspiring you to contribute to a more equal and democratic society.

This course will critically engage with work/labor by exploring the following key questions, among others:

- How can we conduct intersectional research on the working class, and what contributions do feminist, classist, and anti-racist approaches offer?
- What do participatory, movement-relevant, and activist research methodologies entail, and why should we use them?
- How should we approach the politics of work in our research?
- What are the key concerns and issues in research labor, as highlighted by ongoing research at Ghent University? Participant-led seminars will explore these questions.

Teaching methods will include masterclasses by invited speakers, workshop sessions, discussions and Q&A with participants. Reading material will also be provided. We anticipate a maximum of two readings per session.

The participant-led research workshop aims to create a collegial space where you can discuss your research projects/ideas/findings and receive feedback from your peers.

AUDIENCE

This course is organized by PhD and postdoctoral students for social sciences, humanities, and non-social science disciplines. We extend a particularly warm invitation to economics and business students who are interested in exploring critical approaches to work/labor. We also welcome international/exchange students, but please check Doctoral School regulations first.

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PROGRAMME

Day 1: Intersectional analysis of work: class, gender and race in and beyond the global workplace (10th of December)

- Social reproduction and globalisation of production (Dr Alessandra Mezzadri, SOAS, UK)
- In and Against the Ecological Crisis: Working-Class Environmentalism between Workplace and Community (Dr Lorenzo Feltrin, Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Geneva Graduate Institute, IT/CH)

Day 2: Participatory and movement-relevant research methods (11th of December)

- Decolonial and Participatory Research Approaches: Beyond Methods (Dr Adriana Moreno-Cely, VUB, BE)
- Movement-relevant research methods (Dr Levi Gahman, Liverpool University, UK)
- Counter-mapping conventional geographies of work, production and value (Dr Katharina Grueneis, University of Nottingham & Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain, UK/TU)

Day 3: Workers' research, activism and organising (12th of December)

- Workers' inquiry and class composition (Dr Jamie Woodcock, Notes From Below/KCL, UK)
- Reproductive labour and union organising in Belgium and Georgia (Dr Sigrid Vertommen, UGent & University of Amsterdam, BE/NL)
- Participant-led research workshops (UGent Phd students)

ORGANIZERS

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Info & Registration here:

<https://www.ugent.be/doctoralschool/en/doctoraltraining/courses/specialistcourses/labour-mobilisation-politics-work2425>

