17-18, January 2019

International conference

New perspectives in feminist labour history: work and activism
Department of History and Cultures, University of Bologna
Aula Prodi, Piazza San Giovanni in Monte 2, Bologna

17 January

9.00 – 10.00 Welcome address and introduction to the conference
Paolo Capuzzo (Director Department of History and Cultures, University of Bologna)
Andrea Caracausi (President Italian Association of Labour History, University of Padua)
Eloisa Betti (University of Bologna), Marica Tolomelli (University of Bologna), Introduction

10.00 – 10.45 Keynote speech: Eileen Boris (University of California, Santa-Barbara), Reproduction as Production: Beyond Dichotomy

11.00-13.00 Women in typically male occupations and the gendered division of labour in society
Chair/Discussant: Leda Papastefanaki (University of Ioannina)
1. Liliosa Azara (Roma Tre University), Women between work and family in Sardinian mining communities (XIX and XX century)
2. Ajayi Abiodun (Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo), Entrepreneurs, agents and stakeholders in the commercial sector of Osun division, western Nigeria
3. Natalia Jarska (Polish Academy of Science), Women as technicians and engineers in state-socialist Poland
4. Diane Kirkby (La Trobe University, Melbourne), Emma Robertson (La Trobe University, Melbourne), Katie Wood (La Trobe University, Melbourne), Women workers in the trades challenge gender traditions in the Australian and British workplace
5. Georgia Rina (University of Macedonia), “Gender doesn’t matter! An ethnography of female entrepreneurship in the contemporary Greece

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 16.00 Building Women’s Networks – Action repertoires and Ideas Circulation
Chair/Discussant: Raffaella Baritono (University of Bologna)
1. Marco Caligari (Independent Researcher), The household, the strike and the female international networks: the Women and the ship repair workers’ strike (Genoa,1955)
2. Laura Savelli (University of Pisa), The bread and the roses. The first feminism and the femaleworkers. The Italian case
3. Françoise F. Laot (University of Reims Champagne, Ardenne), The circulation of activist ideas across borders and directly to the homes. Training for women’s (re)work on French TV in the sixties
4. Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir (University of Iceland), Silke Neunsinger (Swedish Labour Movements Archives), A translocal approach to the study of the struggles for equal remuneration: Iceland, India and South Africa
5. Virginia Baptista (New University of Lisbon), Women in the mutual societies – since the end of the nineteenth century to the thirties
16.00 – 16.15 Coffee break

16.15– 18.00 Women’s movements and women workers’ rights
Chair/Discussant: Marica Tolomelli (University of Bologna)
1. Isidora Grubački (Central European University, Budapest), Women Activists’ Relation to Peasant Women’s Work: Two Cases from Yugoslavia in the 1930s
2. Beatrice Busi (University of Venice), Sabrina Marchetti (University of Venice), The political organization of paid domestic workers in Italy (1946-1974)
3. Elizabeth Faue (Wayne State University, Detroit), Work and the Injured Body Politic: Health, Gender, and Workplace Democracy in the United States
4. Judit Acsady (Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Women wage labourers’ working conditions. Collective action and social solidarity at the turn of the century in Hungary

18.00-18.30 Concluding discussion

18 January

9.00 – 9.45 Keynote speech: Susan Zimmermann (Central European University, Budapest) Women workers’ organizing in global perspective

9.45.-11.30 Productive and reproductive labour between austerity, precarity and migration
Chair/discussant: Paola Rudan (University of Bologna)
1. Maya John (University of Delhi), One Day in the Life of Johra Bibi: A History of Migration, Precarity and Resistance by Women Domestic Workers
2. Leda Sutlović (University of Vienna), Social Reproduction in Times of Austerity – Transformations of Equality Policies in Yugoslavia
3. Sigrid Vertommen (King’s College London), Camille Barbagallo (Keele University, Leeds University), The Invisible Wombs of the Market: Waged and unwaged reproductive labour under global capitalism
4. Maria Tamboukou (University of East London), Working women on the move: reconsidering nomadism in dark times
5. Alessandra Pescarolo (Società Italiana delle Storiche), Productive work in the economic theories (XVIII - XIX century)

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 13.30 Women and Trade Unions
Chair/Discussant: Eloisa Betti (University of Bologna)
1. Paulo Marques Alves (ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon), From exclusion to underrepresentation: women and the trade union movement in Portugal
2. Shobhana Warrier (Delhi University), Trade unions and women worker, 1914-1951 colonial Tamil Nadu
3. Elena Musiani (University of Bologna), Biographies of leading female trade unionists in Emilia Romagna between the 19th and the 20th century
4. **Debora Migliucci** (Archivio del Lavoro, Milan), *Trade Union’s women and their biographies – The case study of Camera del Lavoro in Milan (1945-1965)*

5. **Anna Frisoni** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), *Trade union feminism in Lyon: 1970s commissions-femmes as sites of resistance and well-being*

13.30 – 14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30 – 16.30 **Varieties of women’s work-place related activism**
Chair/Discussant: **Karin Pallaver** (University of Bologna)

1. **Thanasis Betas** (University of Thessaly, Volos), “*In order to safeguard the lives of our children and families...*” Resistance and protest of female workers in the field of the Greek tobacco industry, 1945-1970

2. **Romain Castellesi** (University of Bourgogne, Dijon), *The gender of Salamander’s mobilisation in 1973 (Romans-sur-Isère, France)*

3. **Nausheen Quayyum** (York University, Toronto), *Organizing and Being Organized: Women Workers in Bangladesh’s Garment Industry and the Building of an Infrastructure of Dissent*

4. **Mamatha Gandham** (Ambedkar University Delhi), *Ten-Day Relay Hunger Strike of Anganwadi Workers: A Milestone in the History of Collective Action of Women Workers*

5. **Julie Guard** (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg), “*We realize how important it is to have the wives behind us*”: Women, Community Unionism, and the 2009-10 Sudbury Miners’ Strike

16.30 – 16.45 **Coffee break**

16.45 – 18.15 **Feminist Labour History WG Meeting**

18.15-18.45 **Concluding discussion**

**Scientific Committee:**
- Rossana Barragan *International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam*
- Eloisa Betti *University of Bologna*
- Eileen Boris *University of California (Santa Barbara) – International Federation for Research in Women’s History (President)*
- Diane Kirkby *La Trobe University, Melbourne*
- Silke Neunsinger *Swedish Labour Movement Archive*
- Karin Pallaver *University of Bologna*
- Leda Papastefanaki *University of Ioannina*
- Paola Rudan *University of Bologna*
- Marica Tolomelli *University of Bologna*
- Shobhana Warrier *University of Delhi*
- Susan Zimmermann *Central European University (Budapest) – International Conference of Labour and Social History (President)*

**Organization:**
- Eloisa Betti *University of Bologna*, eloisa.betti2@unibo.it
- Marica Tolomelli *University of Bologna*, marica.tolomelli@unibo.it