

31 August 2018

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

At the end of a long and very hot summer we send you the **programme and some practical information** for our next working group meeting taking place from 7 to 9 November 2018 at the International Research Center in Berlin.

First of all, let us say that we are very happy about the suggestions and proposals we received from the group. We really think that the inputs and discussions of this meeting will help us to further develop our methodological approach to the field of unfree labour.

As for the character of the meeting, we would like to follow the example of the workshop we have had in September 2016 in Amsterdam. That means that this is **no standard conference**. As we would like to reserve as much time as we can for **open discussion and exchange**, we don't expect written papers read out to the audience but rather short presentations of case studies and source material or reflections on future research questions or methodological problems. Also, we will have a small reader with texts helping us to connect the individual inputs to the broader topics of the workshop. The main objective of the meeting, however, is to situate the contents and approaches of our working group members in the broader research field of labour and social history and to take the opportunity and develop ideas for joint panels, projects and publications as well as funding options in the future. As the workshop will take place in cooperation with the ELHN working group on military labour, we will have a first section (7 November) on “military and unfree labour”. The second and third day will take up and pursue issues that have been brought up in previous meetings: “sites and fields of coercion” (8 November) and “grammars of dependency” (9 November).

The workshop will be **hosted by the International Research Center Re:Work** in Berlin (Georgenstraße 23, very close to metro station “Friedrichstraße”). That means that we may use their seminar rooms, their kitchen and their coffee machine and that the re:work staff and the fellows of the upcoming academic year are invited to join our discussion. However, please note that neither the European Labour History Network nor the International Research Center Re:Work has funds to support us financially. We all need to look for funds individually. So **please check with your home institution for travel grants or other subsidies**. Also, we recommend that you book your tickets and your hotel as early as possible in order to save costs. If you are looking for a place to stay, we can recommend “Motel One” at Hackescher Markt (about 80 EUR per night) or “Albrechtshof” (about 100 EUR per night), both very close to the place we meet.

In order to help us to prepare the event, we ask you to **tell us by October 1, 2018, if you are coming** and from when to when you are staying. Also, as we are going to use the re:work kitchen for our main meals on Thursday and Friday night, **we are looking for volunteers** who would be willing (a) to cook, (b) to set the table or (c) to clean the kitchen.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in November for what promises to be an exciting workshop!

Jeannine Bischoff, Christian G. De Vito, Johan Lund Heinsen and Juliane Schiel