



UNIVERSITY
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LABOUR HISTORY



The Body and Health in Feminist Labour History

Warsaw, The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences

14-16 October 2026

Address: Rynek Starego Miasta 31

Wednesday 14 October 2026

9.30-11.15 Session 1: Labour Productivity and the Body

Chair: Eloisa Betti

Zsófia Anna Veszely "(Re)production, Ageing and the Body in State-Socialist Hungary"

Andrea Ragno "The Female Body at Work between Medical Discourse and Gender Medicine: Menstruation and Productivity in the Italian Context"

Nikos Kastrinakis "Female Workers' Health, Experiences of Accidents and the Making of the Non-Productive Body in Interwar Greece"

Athena Michalakea “Health, Productivity, and Penal-Welfare Governance: The Body of the Sex Worker in 20th Century Greece”

11.15-11.45 Break

11.45-13.15 Session 2: Gendering Healthcare Workers

Chair: Jaśmina Korczak-Siedlecka

Alba Masramon Cruzate “Not Only Science: The Gendered Formation for Nurses. Spain, 1900- 1936”

Marek Maj “Midwives’ Letters and Proletarianization in the Free City of Kraków”

Katarzyna Szarla “Occupational Exposure and the Gendered Healthcare Labour during the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Poland, 1980s — 1990s”

Fanni Svégl “Working with Women’s Bodies: Pregnancy as a Terrain of Expertise in Socialist Hungary”

13.15-14.15 Lunch Break

14.15-16.00 Session 3: Gender Violence and Domestic Workers in the Americas

Chair: Agata Błoch

Emily E. LB. Twarog, Elisa Frühauf Garcia “Women Domestic Workers in Brazil and the United States: Gender Violence, Colonial Legacies, and Survivance”

Mariana Sarkis Olson “Domestic Work and Violence on Trial: Ecclesiastical Justice in Colonial Mexico Trial”

Suelen Siqueira Julio “Indigenous Women and the Worlds of Labor: Gender, Race, and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro”

Eileen Boris “Dora’s Body”

16.15 - 16.30 Break

16.30 - 17.45 Session 4: Gendering the Working Time

Chair: Susan Zimmermann

Anne-Valérie Zuber “*Robots Day and Night, No Thanks!* Feminist Mobilisations Against Women’s Night Work in the Swiss Watchmaking Industry (1984–1992)”

Kristin D. Hussey “Feeling the night shift: Sensory and embodied experiences of night nursing in the late 19th century British hospital”

María Nieves García-Pintor “The Eight Hours Campaign and the Medicalisation of Women Workers’ Bodies in Spain, 1870–1910”

Thursday 15 October 2026

9.30-11.15 Session 5: Constructing Gender Difference

Chair: Dobrochna Kałwa

Intaek Hong "The Red Body: Hygienic Womanhood and Constructing Masculine and Feminine Female Workers' Body in Postcolonial North Korea, 1953-1965"

Xuan Jin "Offshore Risk and Onshore Reproduction: Gendered Bodily Governance in Postwar Taiwan's Port Society"

Grace Simpson "Anaemic housewife to waged worker: the female body in European mining-related publications from the 1950s to the 1970s"

Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska "Reproducing Labor Force: Debating Polish Immigrant Women's Reproductive Labors in the Turn-of-the-Twentieth Century United States"

11.15-11.45 Break

11.45-13.15 Session 6: Expertise and Governance of Labour

Chair: Barbara Klich-Kluczevska

Mart Chmielewski "Disabled Bodies at Work: The Case of *Invalids' Cooperatives* in State Socialist Poland"

Karolina Siewak "Health and Work of Rural Women in Poland in the 1960s and 1970s: Medical and Sociological Perspectives"

Anna Ivanova "Gendered Labour in Soviet Agriculture in the 1970s"

Selin Çağatay "Rethinking the genealogy of 'reproductive rights': Gender, labour, and the forgotten actors in family planning education, 1960s-1980s"

13.15-14.15 Lunch Break

14.15-16 Session 7: Workers' Mobilisations and Activism

Chair: Emily Gioielli

Georgia-Taygeti Katakou "*ARMS! SOFT VELVETY READY FOR THE NEXT WASHING UP*: Greek feminists and the body as a terrain of protest (1974-1989)"

Judit Acsády "Intersections of Feminist Activism and Early Sociographies about Women Workers' Conditions in Industry at the Beginning of the 20th Century in Hungary"

Eloisa Betti, Liliosa Azara "*Hands off, dear colleague!* The "Discovery" of Sexual Harassment in Italian Workplaces in the 1980s"

Sara D'Anna "Disciplining Women's Bodies: Apprentices, Workers, and Masters in Early Modern Naples"

16.15 - 16.30 Break

16.30 – 18.00 Special Event

Guided Tour at the Exhibition at Dom Spotkań z Historią (Address: Karowa 20) Guide: Dr Katarzyna Stańczak-Wiślicz (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Friday 16 October

9.30 - 11.15 Session 8: Narrating Gendered Experiences of Work

Chair: Annina Gagyiova

Olimpia Capitano “Laura Dalvit, Memorie dei Miei Giorni Usati”

Thanasis Betas “*Elderly female worker... Frequently absent due to illness. Work, Health, and Gender in the Greek Tobacco Industry, 1945-1980*”

Kirill Goriachok “Body and Celluloid: Conditions of Female Labour in Early Soviet Film”

Eszter Varsa “*Always on my own: An Intersectional Analysis of Three Peasant Women’s Recollections of their Working Lives in the First Half of the 20th Century in Hungary*”

11.15-11.45 Break

11.45-13.15 Session 9: Roundtable

"The Body and Health in Feminist Labour History: New Trends in Historiography"

Speakers: Jan Burek (Warsaw University), Izabela Mrzygłód (GHI/IH PAN, Warsaw), Leda Papastefanaki (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences), Eszter Varsa (Central European University) and Susan Zimmermann (Central European)

Chair: Natalia Jarska

13.15-14.15 Lunch

Scientific Committee: Eloisa Betti (University of Padova), Eileen Boris (University of California in Santa Barbara), Natalia Jarska (Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Leda Papastefanaki (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences), Eszter Varsa (Central European University) and Susan Zimmermann (Central European University)

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Project co-organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences