

XV NORDIC LABOUR HISTORY CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS

Session A1: Citizenship, Labour, and Gender

Malin Arvidsson, Lund University: Swedish Social Democratic Women's relation to the National Association for Women's Franchise (L.K.P.R): Cooperation and complications 1907–1921

This paper is a draft version of an article for a special issue of *Arbetarhistoria*, focusing on universal suffrage. The aim of the article is to give an overview of Swedish Social Democratic women's relation to the National Association for Women's Franchise (L.K.P.R), based on previous research and an empirical study of how the issue of co-operation was debated at Social Democratic Women's congresses, from 1907 to the 1919/1921 constitutional reform. The background is that L.K.P.R adopted a platform that demanded women's right to vote on the same conditions as men, which meant that many working class women would not be enfranchised because of the existing income requirements. Naturally, this made co-operation with L.K.P.R. controversial among the social democratic women. This article outlines how the positions changed over time, in relation to developments at the International Suffrage Alliance Conference and the International Conference of Socialist Women. It also gives examples of how the viewpoints varied throughout Sweden – from the women's club in the mining town Malmberget, highly critical towards co-operation, to the social liberal political climate in Gothenburg, where Nelly Thüring crossed organizational boundaries and was a member of both the local women's club and the local branch of L.K.P.R.

Bio: Malin Arvidsson holds a PhD in History from the University of Örebro, Sweden. Her dissertation (2016) is an analysis of economic redress for abuse in out-of-home care for children and involuntary sterilizations. She currently teaches at the Human Rights Studies division, Department of History, Lund University. E-mail: malin.arvidsson@mrs.lu.se.

Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir, University of Iceland: Votes for the poor. The intersection of suffrage and poor law in Iceland 1916–1934

While the idea of universal suffrage challenged the economic and gendered meaning of citizenship, old conceptions lived on through remaining voting restrictions. Drawing on research of the political discourse, the testimonies of those who were excluded, of voting registers and poor relief records, I explore the politics of the poor women and men that were

not allowed to vote; the disabled, the sick, the old, the single mothers and widows. I show that the politics of voting restrictions were contested at the intersection between electoral and constitutional law on the one hand, and poor law on the other. And I argue, that by looking at the way in which both the poor law and voting law was implemented we can ask (and answer) important questions about how citizenship was conceived. It allows us to explore the way in which citizenship was contested, not only at the national level, but also at the local and individual level — even at the polling station.

Bio: Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir (ragnhk@hi.is) is Professor of History at the University of Iceland. She has published works on nationalism, democracy, the politics of the left, and gender. Her most recent book is *Konur sem kjósa* (2020), a co-authored award-winning work about the history of women voters in Iceland.

Session A3: Gendering Industry

Jørgen Burchardt, Museum Vestfyn: *The men took over: The cheese dairy workforce 1840-1930*

For many hundreds of years, the entire production of cheese was in the hands of women. They milked the cows and processed the milk on farms in most areas of the world. This pattern shifted when the production of cheese became industrialized in the middle of the 1800s. After a few decades, men took over the most central jobs. By the 1930s, men dominated in the central jobs, while women were pushed aside to work at lower-paid positions like packaging and other secondary tasks. The paper will document the development of gender distribution and examine the shift in relation to cultural dimensions, technological developments, and changes in the job function itself.

Bio: Jørgen Burchardt is senior researcher at Museum Vestfyn and has been director of the Danish Road Museum. He is an engineer followed by studies in ethnology at the University of Copenhagen and has published many books, papers and articles on aspects of labor, technology and organization. Further information: www.burchardt.name

Katri Karkinen, independent (Finland): Looking for recognition for early dairy maids

Animal work is dirty and with low income. It used to be a female enterprise. In Finland, we have no literature about the early professions in dairy, such as cattle care *däjör*, or dairy maid *mejerska*.

Patrons together with the Senate executed a rule for major houses with enough of herd to give women training in dairy. In 1867, the courses started, although in some places private training had already happened. The schools caused an explosive growth in the amount of

milk and butter. The exported butter from North Karelia to Russia increased in 15 years ninefold.

The sharp increase in Joensuu was due to eight trained ladies who travelled around the county giving advice. I find that this activity is explaining the figures of Joensuu customs office. There was a new continuation to female milking and churning, that happened already in medieval times.

Bio: Katri Karkinen studied agriculture and social science in the universities of Helsinki ja Joensuu. My working experience is in Finland and in Africa as well as in Russia. Now I teach in an adult institution, but I want to write about women in agriculture. I traced some names of early, trained dairy maids. Their story is untold, although the dairy industry is strong and powerful. I go back so far as in the 19th century major houses, where the industry started. I am dreaming of comparative analysis of early dairy industry in Nordic, Baltic and Russia.

katri.karkinen@lammasoja.net

**Thanasis Betas, University of Ioannina & Research Centre for the Humanities (Athens):
Health, technology and labour in the Greek tobacco industry in the 20th century. The
gender dimension**

Which are the mechanisms forming the micro-politics of control of the body, always a gender body, in Greek tobacco industries from the first decades of the 20th century until the end of the 1970s? Raising this as a central question of this paper, we use methodological tools from the sectors of history of health, technology and labour. Each of these fields has been connected with other historiographical debates in the last decades. Thus, the history of technology conversed mainly with the philosophy of technology and the studies of science, the labour history with the economic history and the history of unionism, while the history of health with medical developments. Therefore, following an interdisciplinary question, we set up the infrastructure for the conversation of three historiographical fields and for the creation, through this osmosis, of new problematic for the experience of work.

Bio: Thanasis Betas is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the National Hellenic Research Foundation (Athens, Greece). He is historian of labour, gender, social and economic history of Greece in the 20th century. He has published on the gender, labour relations and technological changes, as well as the child labour and labour protest in the Greek tobacco industry during the 20th century. His latest research project entitled "Filter-cigarettes...Business strategies, technological changes and organizational innovations in the Greek Tobacco Industry between 1945-1973" has been financed by the Research Centre for the Humanities (RCH, Athens). He is member of the Greek Economic History Association, member of the Greek Network for the History of Labour and Labour Movement, and member of the Oral History Association of Volos.

Tiina Kuokkanen (and Noora Hemminki), University of Oulu: Girls at work in Varjakka sawmill (1900–1921)

In numbers, most of the workers at Varjakka sawmill (Oulunsalo, Finland) were men. When studying work in Varjakka, they also are the group of people, which is most presented in research literature. Despite of this, also many women, children and adolescents worked there. In this case study the focus is on children, especially girls. What kind of work they at sawmill conducted and in what kind of physical environment? This presentation is based on an article manuscript (original in Finnish) Noora Hemminki, Tiina Kuokkanen, Marika Hyttinen: "Orisbergin ruukin ja Varjakan sahan teollisuusyhteisöt lapsuuden ja nuoruuden ympäristöinä" ("Industrial communities of Orisberg ironworks and Varjakka sawmill as environments of childhood and adolescent")

Bio: Tiina Kuokkanen, PhD (archaeology), MA (history). tiina.kuokkanen@oulu.fi

Over the years my research interests have varied from early modern dress to outhouses and from industrial to contemporary archaeology, but one thing that has remained, is my interest in gender perspective. At the moment I am working as a post doc researcher in a project called "Daily and afterlife of children (1500 - 1900): New perspectives in identifying childhood in the past". Right now, my focus is on Varjakka sawmill (1900 - 1921) and especially on those children and adolescents who worked there.

Session A4: Women's role in trade unions and labour struggle

Valgerður Pálmadóttir, University of Iceland, Evelina Johansson Wilén, Gothenburg University, and Eva Schmitz, independent scholar: *Solidarity and Political Conceptions of Gender and Class in the ASAB cleaning women's strikes in Sweden and the "Women's Day Off" in Iceland*

In this paper we will present, and contrast two specific women's strikes from the 1970s that in different ways exemplified (and were signified with) the idea that women's struggle and class struggle is intimately linked. These are the ASAB cleaners' strike in Sweden 1974 and the Icelandic one-day women's general strike on October 24th, 1975. While the ASAB strike was a traditional workplace strike, the Icelandic strike was – as the contemporary feminist strikes – mainly symbolic. Our aim is to study articulations of solidarity in these two historical strikes, as well as how the relation between gender and class was conceptualized by leading strikers and organizers. We aim to analyze more thoroughly how class and gender are thematized and articulated by major actors in respective strike. We will also discuss the way that these conceptualizations could be understood in relation to the form of the two strikes.

Bios: Valgerður Pálmadóttir is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of History and Philosophy at the University of Iceland. She received her PhD in the history of ideas at Umeå University 2018 with the dissertation *Perplexities of the Personal and the Political: How Women's Liberation became Women's Human Rights*. Her research area is political history of ideas and she has mainly focused on social movements and their theories and activities in

historical context. Pálmadóttir is currently working on a research project on women's strikes in Iceland.

Eva Schmitz is a senior sociologist and emerita from the University of Halmstad in Sweden. She defended her doctoral degree in Sociology at the University of Lund in 2007 with the dissertation *Sisterhood as a political action. Women's organizing from 1968 until 1982 in Sweden*. Schmitz focus throughout her career has been on women's organizing and mobilization. She has done research on women's roles in the trade union movement, with a special focus on female workers participation in strikes, both during the epoch of the rise of the working-class movement and in the 70's class struggle.

Evelina Johansson Wilén is a researcher and lecturer in gender studies at the department of the humanities, education and social sciences at Örebro University in Sweden. She received her PhD at the University of Gothenburg in 2019 with the dissertation *Between the Self and the World. Feminism and Ethics under Neo-Liberal Conditions*. Apart from studying contemporary women's strikes, her ongoing research projects include a study of the mainstreaming of gender equality within higher education as well as a study about involuntary celibate men.

Iris Olavinen, The Finnish Labour Archives: Empowering women - the informal meetings and activism of trade union women leaders in 1988 – 1992

I examine the concerns trade union women leaders shared in their informal meetings in 1988-1992 in Finland. I study the strategies they adopted to carry out their agendas, and how they now look back to the meetings thirty years ago. My source material covers the memos and the bulletins of the meetings and interviews I made with four former trade union women leaders in 2020.

The roots of my study are in social history. It's also in part oral history, which tells more about how the informants want to remember and how they value the past events, than what happened objectively. And lastly, my study is linked to feminist history approach: I'm interested in how trade union women leaders were handling possible obstacles they and women workers as a social group were encountering in labour markets and in trade union movement.

The meetings of trade union women leaders were something new in trade union movement in Finland. The idea was to get to know each other and to find out how things were for women in other women dominated trade unions. The value of the meetings was mainly social one: women leaders got support from each other and tips for their own negotiations as union leaders.

Bio: Iris Olavinen is working as a researcher / archivist at the Finnish Labor Archives. She manages archives and collections of individual persons related to labor movement, cooperative movement, and human rights activism. In particular, the histories of women and minorities interest her. She has graduated from Helsinki University and is Master of Social Sciences (2013). Her major was Economic and Social History and minors Gender Studies and Social Policy. Contact details: iris.olavinen@tyark.fi

Helle Stenum, Roskilde University: Caribbean Queens in Nordic-Caribbean colonial labour histories – a scratch in a surface

In Nordic Labour history, labour rebellions, strikes and collective action among workers in the Caribbean colonies are almost invisible in general and in particular, when it comes to women.

In the former Danish colony 'Dansk Vestindien', present day US Virgin Islands, women have played an important role from the time African people were trafficked to the colony and enslaved.

Queen Breffu was leader of the slave rebellion on St John in 1733; the labour revolt Fireburn in 1878 on St Croix had female leaders such as Queen Mary; the successful strike on St Thomas in 1892 among female coal carriers, was also led by a woman; Queen Coziah.

Oral histories in USVI have kept the narratives of resistance alive as an integral part of the cultural Afro Caribbean context.

But how has resistance against colonial domination and more specific women's involvement, been described and dealt with in Danish history production (with the immediate access to the historical documents in the physical archives brought to Copenhagen after the sale of the islands? (Bastian 2003).

Bio: Helle Stenum, PhD. Filmmaker. Independent scholar/activist. Director of 2017 documentary; `We Carry It Within Us. Fragments of a colonial past`. Founder of Fireburn Files. Lecturer at Roskilde University (Cultural Encounters, Department of Communication and Art). Research areas international migration; global domestic labour market; colonial entanglements; biometric governance; racialization, production of national histories etc. hellest@ruc.dk

Session A5: Women organizing political and social movements

Fredrik Egefur, Lund University: "From the Ruined Belgium..." - Anna Lindhagen's European Journey in 1915

Anna Lindhagen (1870-1941) was a Social Democratic politician and charity activist. for a long time she was active in a number of political issues. In connection with the First World War, she channeled much of her work to the peace struggle, she represented Sweden at the Women's conference for peace in The Hague in 1915 and was then also elected to the International committee of women for permanent peace (ICWFP) . After the meeting in The Hague, she visited the besieged Brussels as coordinator of a comprehensive humanitarian relief mission from Sweden. This visit was preceded and followed by some correspondence by mail with Camille Huysmans, Secretary of the International Socialist Bureau (ISB) and future Prime Minister of Belgium. Back in Sweden, Lindhagen published several articles about her experiences, including "From the ruined Belgium".

In these letters and articles, we can follow not only the preparations for the relief effort but also more general reasoning about war, nationalism, socialism and humanism. It is also interesting to study Lindhagen's, and her fellow activists', view on women as peace workers. There's a difference between women's peace work and female peace work, which

sometimes, but not always, follows an ideological ground, which I will discuss in this presentation.

Malin Arvidsson, Lund University: *Speaking up in public to win women's votes: The 1921 election campaign of the social democratic women's federation*

This article examines how social democratic women used the enactment of universal suffrage as an argument to gain support for the social democratic women's federation, founded in 1920. The article also analyses the extent to which the federation used direct (personal) and indirect (media) channels for voter communication, and how potential female voters were addressed in written campaign material. Drawing on previous studies pointing out that both scarce economic resources and a lack of time for political work among its members were challenges for the social democratic women's movement, the article shows that indirect channels were used in the run-up to the local elections in March 1919 due to a lack of both funding and available speakers. During 1920, in contrast, speaking tours were arranged in cooperation with local and regional organizations within the Social Democratic Labour Party. Contributions from the party and the Trade Union Confederation made it possible to organize more tours in the spring of 1921. Female speakers became sought-after, since they were seen as particularly apt at addressing female voters. To illustrate this, the extensive travels of Nelly Thüring (1875–1972), who eventually became one of the first female MP:s, are examined in-depth.

Bio: Malin Arvidsson holds a PhD in History from the University of Örebro, Sweden. Her dissertation (2016) is an analysis of economic redress for abuse in out-of-home care for children and involuntary sterilizations. She currently teaches at the Human Rights Studies division, Department of History, Lund University. E-mail: malin.arvidsson@mrs.lu.se.

Andrés Brink Pinto, Lund University: *Public toilets, the right to the city and women's political citizenship*

Most cities in Sweden lacked public toilets for women before 1910. The availability of public toilets is one important factor in determining movement within the city, and after women became electable in 1909 newly elected social democratic women councillors introduced local initiatives to build public toilets for women. The purpose of my paper is to show how the struggle for public conveniences was connected to women's expanded political citizenship as well as an important part of expanding the right to the city for working class women. My case-study is how social democratic councilwoman Anna Stenberg built support for public toilets for women within her party, within the city council in Malmö and how the public toilets were received by local papers.

Bio: Andrés Brink Pinto (PhD in history) is a researcher at the department of gender studies at Lund university. He has done work on the norms of class, gender and sexuality in the communist youth movement, contentious politics in Sweden, and police regulation of the urban space and same sex acts between men. Andres.brink_pinto@genus.lu.se

Session B1: Precarity and forms of labour: Case studies I

Maria Fernanda Arellanes Arellanes, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa: *Domestic Workers in Digital Work Platforms in Denmark: Disposable Work, Crisis Migrants, and Mobility Regimes*

There are generally speaking two types of paid domestic work: The live-in domestic worker, where the worker lives in the house of the employer, and the one-job (gig) organized domestic labor, where the employer/client hires someone to perform domestic work from time to time. Whereas the first type practically disappeared in a Danish context in the mid-20th century until the expansion of the au pair programme to third-country nationals in the 1990s, the second type has recently re-emerged on a larger scale through platform-organized services. This paper explores platform-organized domestic work and its precarious implications – and formalizing potential – for workers in Copenhagen and Mexico City through the cases of Hilfr and Aliada. Both platforms promotes themselves as socially responsible, Aliada by highlighting the social security available for workers on the platform, and Hilfr by highlighting the collective agreement entered with the trade union 3F that makes it possible for 'freelance hilfrs' to become 'super hilfrs' treated as regular employees with rights and minimum wages as stated in the collective agreement. The findings from the contemporary study – that includes netnography conducted on the 'surface' of the platforms and in-depth interviews with platform workers – are put into historical context through cross readings of research on domestic work and platform economy.

Bio: María Fernanda Arellanes Arellanes is an anthropology student at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Iztapalapa, and is currently working on her bachelor thesis (licenciatura) on platforms and domestic work. maria.fernanda.arellanes@gmail.com

Nina Trige Andersen, SFAH, Copenhagen: *Pirates and chambermaids: Outsourcing schemes in the Copenhagen hotel sector 1970s-1990s*

From the 1970s a network of private cleaning companies started growing in Denmark, and the work traditionally done by chambermaids at hotels was one of the prime targets for these new companies. Particularly from the mid 1980s, many Copenhagen hotels started outsourcing the chambermaid work to private cleaning companies, which had profound precaritizing consequences for an already precarious form of work. Some of the private cleaning companies were operating legally, others semi-legally or clandestinely, and the trade union Hotel- og Restaurationspersonalets Forbund (HRF) named the latter forms 'pirate cleaners' and 'cleaning mafia'. In the 1990s HRF Copenhagen launched a campaign against the cleaning mafia, where chambermaids with migrant background – many of them Filipinas – were central activists. The paper explores the history of pirate cleaning and outsourcing schemes in the Copenhagen hotel sector from the 1970s-1990s and its precaritizing implications, as well as the counterstrategies of the trade union and the chambermaids on the ground through oral history and the archive of HRF Copenhagen.

Bio: Nina Trige Andersen is a journalist and historian affiliated with The Society for Labour History (SFAH) in Denmark. She has published on labor, womens work, migration and trade union history in newspapers, magazines, journals and books.

Her latest book is 'Labor Pioneers. Economy, Labor, and Migration in Filipino-Danish Relations, 1950-2015', Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2019:

<http://ateneo.edu/ateneopress/product/labor-pioneers-economy-labor-and-migration-filipino-danish-relations-1950-2015>

Roderick G. Galam, Oxford Brookes University: *From the globalization of the seafaring labour market to its global regulation: International actors and the assembly and employability of Filipino seafarers*

This paper investigates how the restructuring of seafaring labour and its outsourcing to the Global South since the 1970s has shaped how the Philippines has produced and supplied seafarers for the global maritime industry. The re-spatialization of seafaring labour created a global labour market for seafarers which had consequences on the standard of education and training of seafarers and necessitated the global regulation of these standards. As such, international actors and various configurations of relationships between them and local actors are shaping the ability of the Philippines, which supplies about a third of all seafarers in the global merchant fleet, to continue to produce and supply seafarers for the global maritime industry. This paper examines how international actors associated with shipping capital are influencing Philippine policy on seafaring labour and employment and how international actors are vitally involved in the assembly of Filipino seafaring labour through their investment in maritime education and training, and how they are determining the employability of Filipino seafarers through their audit of Philippine compliance to international regulation governing the global standardization of maritime education and training. The role of Nordic shipping companies, specifically the Norwegian Shipping Association (NSA) in the production of seafarers from school to ship will be studied in this context.

Bio: Dr Roderick Galam is senior lecturer in sociology at Oxford Brookes University. He is the author of *Women Who Stay: Seafaring and Subjectification in an Ilocos Town* and *The Promise of the Nation: Gender, History, and Nationalism in Contemporary Ilokano Literature*. He has been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Oxford, Sheffield, Bath, Hawaii at Manoa, and at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, and the WZB Berlin Social Sciences Center. In 2014, he was selected as a World Social Science Fellow by the International Social Science Council. rgalam@brookes.ac.uk

Katja Nicolaysen, Museums in Akershus: *Retired teachers as call-temps - from a standard to a non-standard affiliation in working life*

A significant fraction of the retirees in the education sector wants to continue working. To adjust work to pension rights retirees are being hired on temporary contracts, as to call temps. This implies that the work will be on short-term conditions. Researchers have discussed the implication of using more short-term contracts in working life and the

increasing need for people taking precarious work. The concept of a standard worker is in general seen in the light of an industrial worker. However, today there are a large fraction of people working in the service and performance industry. This may have an impact on the concept of a standard worker and a non-standard worker. The Nordic Welfare system gives the teachers financial safety. This makes them different from precarious workers in general. We asked: Why do retired teachers in the education sector want to work as call temps? How do these retired teachers experience the difference from a standard to a non-standard form of work affiliation? Three main aspects showed out to be important to understand their choice of working on a less safe contract: freedom, commitment, and flexibility. Work identity and the feeling of citizenship showed out to be quite important.

This study is part of the research collaboration "Precarious workers and standard workers - historical perspectives on forms of employment in working life" by the Norwegian Museum Network of Working Culture and Work History.

Bio: Katja Nicolaysen is a curator at MiA-Museum of Akershus, Norway, working with collection management with a special interest in private archives and oral history. She has earlier worked with museums management. She holds a degree (cand. philol) in cultural history/folklore from the University of Oslo. katja.nicolaysen@mia.no

B2) Precarity and forms of labour: Case studies II

Rosa Kösters, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam: *Between solidarity and fragmentation: the consequences of and reactions to changing labour relations at the Dutch shop floor, 1970-2010.*

Precarious work is closely related to the global transformation in work in recent decades. The Dutch transformation was particularly far-reaching in comparison with other Western countries. At the same time, we know little about its local effects and of how workers responded. By putting the self-organisation of Dutch workers at its core, my PhD-project directs attention to the multitude of ways by which they collectively organized between 1970 and 2020. My paper discusses what my dissertation may contribute to the global discussions in labour history on the collective organisation of precarious workers by considering the global processes it studies, the conceptual approach it takes and the methodology it uses. Moreover, by sharing the first results from one of my three cases, the paper reveals how, due to the interacting labour process and connectedness among workers, the self-organisation of meat processing workers changed.

Bio: Rosa Kösters (1993) is PhD Researcher at the International Institute of Social History (IISH). She is also coordinator of the IISH Global Hub Labour Conflicts. For her research master thesis on the transformation in work and work floor solidarities at Philips and Hoogovens in the 1970s and 1980s, Rosa won the Dutch Thesis Award for Studies of the Labour Movement 2018. She published in collaboration with The Scientific Bureau for the Dutch Trade Union Movement and was co-editor of a special issue on The Dutch Neoliberal Turn for the *The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History*. Email: rosa.kosters@iisg.nl

Annette Thörnquist, affiliated researcher at Forschungsinstitut für Arbeit. Technik und Kultur (F.A.T.K.), Tübingen: *Trade union struggle for workwear in Swedish elder care*

This article investigates why it took over 20 years of trade union struggle, before workers in Swedish elder care were granted free workwear (in 2018). How did the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union (Kommunal) tackle the problem, and why was the issue finally regulated by the state and not by collective agreement in line with the Swedish model of self-regulation? The analysis takes a labour law and industrial relations perspective. The results indicate that the process was protracted mainly because of the weak and unclear legal basis for pursuing demands on workwear, the municipalities' (local authorities') opposition to a general obligation to provide workwear, and the fact that the issue was deadlocked between the National Board of Health and Welfare representing patient safety, on the one hand, and the Swedish Work Environment Authority representing occupational safety, on the other. The main reason why the union eventually preferred to fight for legislation was that a negotiated solution would probably have come at the expense of other urgent union demands in this female-dominated low-wage sector. When Kommunal intensified the struggle for free workwear in the early 2010s, the union also stepped up the fight against the structural gender differences in wages in the municipal sector.

Thörnquist, Annette (2021). Trade union struggle for workwear in Swedish elder care. *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*. First published July 26, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10242589211031369>

Gunhild Lurås, Norwegian industrial Workers Museum: *Construction workers and precarious work in Rjukan industrial site*

This project will analyze the form of employment the construction workers in Rjukan Industrial site had during the period 1908-1911, and to what extent they were precarious workers. The study will be based on Kristin Jesnes approaches to atypical and precarious work (2018) and Knut Kjeldstadli's view of the historical perspective on precarious work (2018). In addition to examining how the work was organized, the presentation will examine how the culture of the workers affected the form of employment. The culture has been explored by Edvard Bull (1980). One source that will be analysed is the collective agreements from 1908 between the Rjukancompanies and the confederation Norsk Arbeidsmandsforbund. The hypothesis is that the construction workers were in a precarious situation to some extent.

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Bull, Edvard «Renhårig slusk» Tiden Norsk Forlag 1961

Bio: Gunhild Lurås is Manager of Exhibitions in Norwegian industrial Workers Museum. She is cand.philol. in history from University of Oslo. g.luraas@nia.no

Ingrid Haugrønning, Norsk trikotagemuseum: *Precarious work in the 19th century?*

Precarious work is often used to describe insecure jobs with poor wages and working conditions. Add the risk of losing access to the welfare goods that follow the standard work of today, and you are approaching the typical description of the first industrial workers. I have examined work conditions in the early phase of a textile mill in Norway. Salhus Tricotagefabrik, established in 1859, is close to the large city Bergen. By following the censuses over the period 1865 to 1900, we can say more about forms of affiliation in the labour market for the textile workers. First, I find gender-specific terms on similar job tasks. Furthermore, young women seem to be an important, but flexible part of the workforce, while many of the male workers are more likely to stay at the same place for years or generations. We know that the first industrial labourers had poor wages and working conditions. Moreover, they also lacked a safety net in case of health problems and there was no union to secure the deals with the employer. Yet, to determine if this work or lifestyle was precarious or not, we need more knowledge about the culture and opportunities for the workforce of this period.

Bio: Ingrid Haugrønning is head of outreach at the Textile Industry Museum, where she is programming the museum, organizes the educational programme, including research on the work conditions in the historic textile industry in Bergen.

Ingrid has a master in ethnology/cultural studies and wrote a thesis on the paper mill Alvøen and how they organized the mill and the factory from paternalistic inspiration. In 2020 Ingrid published a paper on the first textile workers in Salhus in Årbok for Arbeiderhistorie. Ingrid has a profound interest in working conditions in the historical industry as well as the modern textile industry.

Session B3: Precarity, industry and the state

Irene Odgaard, Independent researcher (Denmark): *The logic of the Ghent model vs. flexicurity.*

Diskursen, der lå til grund for reformer af dagpengesystemet i 1990'erne og etablering af den aktive arbejdsmarkedspolitik (flexicurity), var ganske anderledes end den diskurs, der lå bag dansk arbejderbevægelses tidlige socialpolitiske reformkrav og etableringen af det såkaldte Ghent-system (arbejdsløshedsforsikring, organiseret i A-kasser med statstilskud). Betyder det noget for fagbevægelsens magtressourcer til at håndtere udfordringer fra prekære arbejdsforhold og social dumping i dag?

Således har jeg stillet forskningsspørgsmålet. Drivkraften bag arbejdet med at besvare det stammer fra et arbejdsliv, tilbragt i regi af dansk fagbevægelse.

Svar vil blive søgt i flere perioder i historien:

- 1) fra næringsbegrænsningerne blev afskaffet, de første reformkrav om offentlig forsorg blev stillet og indtil den danske model var institutionaliseret med statstilskud til A-kasser og offentlig velfærd, der kunne mindske trykket fra "den industrielle reservearmé".
- 2) efter etableringen af det indre marked i EU, opkomsten af globale forsyningskæder og svækkelsen af fagbevægelsen.

Dansk arbejderbevægelse opstod i frugtbar diskursiv og praktisk international vekselvirkning; den aktuelle udfordring er, at regulering for at begrænse prekaritet igen har fået en stærk international dimension - uden at fagbevægelsen endnu til fulde mestrer den internationale bevægelses gamle og nye redskaber.

Bio: Aktivt medlem af SiD (nu 3F) siden ansættelse som kranfører på Burmeister&Wain Skibsværft i 1974. I 1987 cand.mag. i historie og samfundsfag fra Roskilde Universitetscenter. I 1988 ansat sekretær/fuldmægtig i Arbejdsministeriet. I 1989 ansat tillidsmand i Hovedforbundet i SiD; 1992 redaktør på kongresrapporten *For et rigere arbejdsliv*; 2005-7, projektleder for en række projekter på industrivirksomheder i regi af CO-Industri og EU's Esprit-program; tovholder på projekter omkring globaliseringens udfordringer til 3F. Emeritus; Redaktør af Ny Politik; medlem af bestyrelsen i Selskabet for Arbejderhistorie i Danmark. iodgaard@kranen.dk

Rohini Thyagarajan, Indian Feminist Judgment Project: *Unveiling the 'employer': Indian supreme court's adjudication of sham contract claims.*

This paper will map the trajectory of the Indian Supreme Court's adjudication of sham contract claims subsequent to the Indian Parliament's enactment in 1970 of the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act (CLARA). The CLARA—a statute governing the practice of engaging workers as 'contract labour' across industries and States in India—wrested from courts their power to prohibit deploying workers as contract labour from time to time. Consequently, post-1970, 'sham contract' claims became the only viable judicial conduit for workers to challenge the precariousness attendant to being classified as 'contract labour'. The juridical category of 'sham contracts', in the absence of the judicial remedy of 'abolition', allowed workers to contest the contract between the principal employer and contractor as a mere device for circumventing obligations that would be statutorily owed to an 'employee'. The paper closely studies Supreme Court decisions from 1978 to 2019 to advance two specific contentions in connection with its adjudication of workers' sham contract claims. First, sham contract adjudication continued to be largely shaped by 'master and servant' law insofar as the court placed reliance on its conceptions of subordination to determine 'employee' status. Significantly, this occurred despite the Court's unequivocal articulation in 1978 of the need to move away from stringent common law 'master and servant' indicia to a more capacious test of 'economic control' to decide whether to pierce through the contractual veil. Second, beginning in the early 2000s the Court, while broadly retaining the master and servant law criterion, started effecting subtle shifts in their substantive content. Specifically, the Court engineered a significantly stricter conception of 'total' control and supervision. It did so by uncritically deferring to clauses in the contract, which stipulated the principal employer's right

to exercise minimum 'quality control' over contract labour. This, the paper will argue, reveals a turn in the Court's orientation towards reinforcing contractual status quo and away from piercing the veil of the contract.

Bio: Rohini Thyagarajan is a lawyer practicing—primarily in the areas of labour and service law—at the High Court of Bombay and in the Industrial Courts in Mumbai. In August 2019, she graduated with an integrated Bachelor of Arts and Law degree from Jindal Global Law School, Jindal Global University, after which she clerked with Justice Dr. S. Muralidhar at the High Court of Delhi and the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in Chandigarh. Her principal areas of interest are labour history, history of labour law, constitutional law and critical theory.

C1) Experiences at the nexus of punishment and labour

Recent decades have seen a tendency to dichotomize studies of punishment in Northern Europe. On the one hand scholars have explored the penitentiaries that emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century, writing rich histories of the discourses, technologies and powers emanating from confinement aimed to create what Foucault called "docile bodies". On the other hand, systems of punishment before this have been explored as systems relating to bodies in very different ways aimed to be exploitative and/or spectacular and underpinned by religion. This has produced equally rich cultural histories of how punishment was understood before the cell prison. Thus, scholarship on punishment in Northern Europe is largely split in two halves: before and after the penitentiary. However, both before and after this moment, punishment has been understood and often defined in relation to labour. This session provides a long view of this relation, by looking at diverse institutions from the eighteenth century onwards and what experiences they created.

Emilie Luther Valentin, Aalborg University: *How to be(come) the perfect inmate: Perspectives on emotional labour in the prison workhouse in the last part of the eighteenth century*

Bio: Emilie Luther Valentin is a PhD-student at the Department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University. She is part of the project Enslaved by the State which traces the making of the prison system in Denmark. Her work focuses on the history of prison workhouses and their inmates. soeby@dps.aau.dk

Bonnie Clementsson, Lund University: *Love, sickness, and death at the fortress of Carlsten 1820-1850*

Bio: Bonnie Clementsson holds a PhD from Lund University. Her thesis was on notions of incest in Sweden. Her recent work focuses on the experiences and writings of convicts labouring at the fortress of Carlsten in the first half of the nineteenth century.

bonnie.clementsson@hist.lu.se

C2) Illicit movement and documents of control: Studying practices of mobility and labour coercion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Before modern systems of control, identity was inherently tied to writing on paper. Across Northern Europe from the sixteenth century onwards, people moving along roads, rivers and other pathways could expect to meet the questions “who are you?” and be required to document their answer. As a system of labour coercion, the need for documentation was designed to reign in the mobilities of a host of different workers from many different sectors. It persisted well into modernity, when it morphed with the emergence of new technologies. This session explores how workers navigated and manipulated this geography of control and coercion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Through microhistories and case studies it uses the question of documentation to explore possibilities of agency and resistance in labour markets defined by hierarchical belonging and restricted mobility.

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson, University of Iceland Centre for Research in Northwest Iceland:
Paperless and masterless: Passports, permits and labour (im)mobility in law and practice in Iceland ca. 1780-1860

In the 1780s, a series of legislative reforms were introduced in Iceland which aimed at enhancing the regulatory framework of labour. Amongst other measures, the new laws introduced a reformed passport system to enhance the control and surveillance of labour mobility. Despite the rigidity of the compulsory service system, which had been the dominant labour regime in Iceland for centuries, studies have shown how seasonal migrant labour was essential to the dual economy of labour-intensive seasonal fishing and pastoral farming. Experiments with proto-industrial wool manufacturing and an expanding foreign trade in the eighteenth century led to greater labour diversification as well as growing concerns about vagrancy and masterless day labourers and their assumed negative effects on social and moral order. This paper discusses the use of passports and other state-issued documentation in facilitating the increased governance of labour coercion in eighteenth and nineteenth century Iceland. Focusing on the use and non-use of passports by labourers I argue that while the extensive archival records of issued passports in the southwest part of Iceland, particularly after ca. 1810, reveal great insights into the mobility of the labour force they cannot be studied without taking note of the tactics employed by labourers in either evading or exploiting the passport system in order to avoid the inherent coercion of compulsory service.

Bio: Vilhelm Vilhelmsson (b. 1980) PhD, is a historian and director of the University of Iceland Centre for Research in Northwest Iceland and editor of the journal *SAGA*. He has a doctoral degree in history from the University of Iceland. His research focuses on the power relations of everyday life in preindustrial Iceland, on labour coercion, subaltern agency and everyday resistance. He has published a variety of papers on labour and social history, on historiography, methodology and theory in history.

Johan Heinsen, Aalborg University: *Escape and Illusion: Prison breakers' forged identities in eighteenth century Denmark*

Bio: Johan Heinsen (PhD) is associate professor of history at the Department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University where he leads the research project *Enslaved by the State*. His work revolves around extramural convict labour institutions and the experiences of punishment they created. heinsen@dps.aau.dk

Anders Dyrborg Birkemose, Aalborg University: *Runaway-advertisements in Copenhagen. Advertising runaways in Early Modern Copenhagen*

This article examines the usage of runaway-advertisements in Copenhagen from the period of 1759 to 1854, to recapture apprentices, journeymen, soldiers, sailors, urban and rural workers as well as convicts who elected to flee from their masters. The article aim to provide an overview over the usage of these advertisements in the aforementioned period based on a database of 8.000 advertisements. The article aim to do three things: The dominant goal is to provide the overview of the culture of advertising runaways in the Danish capital and explaining the high usage until 1799 when the number peaked, but also by it decreased afterwards. The article also wants to provide a short overview over some of the major societal groups who printed Runaway advertisements and how they used it. Lastly the article shows that a great divide existed between private and governmental advertisements in both style, volume, and in the quality of the advertisements.

Bio: Anders Dyrborg Birkemose is a student Aalborg University. abirke17@student.aau.dk

Bonnie Clementsson, Lund University: *Under False Identity: Swedish convicts on the run in the early 1800s*

Bio: Bonnie Clementsson holds a PhD from Lund University. Her thesis was on notions of incest in Sweden. Her recent work focuses on the experiences and writings of convicts labouring at the fortress of Carlsten in the first half of the nineteenth century. bonnie.clementsson@hist.lu.se

Session C3: Capitalism, colonialism, and coercion

Olli Siitonen, University of Helsinki: *Coerced to kill: American narratives of killing in the Vietnam War*

Warfare thrusts soldiers into situations that transgress their previously held moral beliefs. According to American military training manuals the job description of frontline soldiers can be broken down to two key aspects *obeying orders* and *killing or capturing the enemy*. This paper looks at personal narratives of American soldiers. It describes American military

culture and practices in Vietnam providing a context for violence and killing in the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the United States ended up fighting a war of attrition against an elusive guerrilla force and American military practices seemed to undermine the official rules of engagement. American soldiers were sent to *search and destroy missions* to areas that were declared as *free-fire zones* to produce *body count* which became the measurement of the military success in Vietnam. This created an operational culture that helped to pave the way to brutalization of individual soldiers and groups. Some units operated under the unofficial rule that every killed Vietnamese counted as an enemy soldier. Under these special circumstances, soldiers created their own set of norms to evaluate the morality of their actions on the battlefield.

Bio: Olli Siitonen is a PhD student at the University of Helsinki who studies experiences of wartime killing in the Vietnam War from the perspective of American soldiers. He is currently writing his first research paper on this subject and working in the United States at Texas Tech University and University of Maryland College Park on a Fulbright scholarship. olli.siitonen@helsinki.fi

Matthias van Rossum, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam: *Corvée Capitalism – the Dutch East India Company, coerced labour and resistance in early modern Asia*

The Dutch East Indies Company (VOC) had access to different, often deeply connected, labour regimes to support its expansionists and economic aims. Contract, slave, convict and corvée labour systems coexisted in an intricate web of labour regulations in which one form of labour could be substituted by another, either as a disciplinary measure or to maximize efficiency and profitability. The Company, at the same time, operated in environments with highly developed societies and states that could often parallel VOC power. The expansion of the power of the Dutch East India Company thus developed in relation to the different contexts in which it operated, and although the VOC managed to fight its way into dominant positions already early seventeenth century especially in Ambon (1605), Jakatra (1619) and the Banda islands (1616-1621), its more extensive power over larger territories only came with the expansion of power over Taiwan (1622-1663), coastal Ceylon (1640s and especially 1650s), the Moluccas (1650s), the Cape of Good Hope (1652 onwards) and Java (midseventeenth century onwards). Scholars of colonialism and its legacies have for long sought to explain how and why Dutch colonial presence impacted Asian societies. Traditionally, these debates focused on the legal-political relations of the Dutch East India Company and Asian polities and subjects, and only in more recent decades the debate shifted to the deeper impact of the Company on local societies and socio-economic institutions.

This article aims to trace the transformations set in motion by the Dutch East India Company by studying and comparing how the Company employed and developed corvee labour regimes (in relation to other labour regimes), how this impacted local societies and initiated local responses and resistance. Doing so, helps to improve our understanding not only of (Dutch) colonial history, but also of transformations of regimes of (coercive) labour and their impact and contestation in the long run.

Bio: *Matthias van Rossum* is senior researcher in global labour history at the International institute of social history. His expertise is in the dynamics of coercion, diversity, conflict and social strategy. mvr@iisg.nl

Ale Pålsson, Uppsala University/Högskolan Dalarna: *Visualizing Demographic Change and Continuity from Slavery to Liberation: An Examination of Censuses in the Swedish Caribbean*

While Swedish colonialism in the Caribbean, in the form of the Swedish colony of S:t Barthélemy, has been reexamined both within historical research and in popular consciousness, much is still unknown. In particular, while much research has focused on the economic boom during the Napoleonic Wars, the period from 1830 to 1878 still has major blind spots. This is significant, since 1847 saw the liberation of the enslaved from the island, while the economy of the colony worsened continually. By examining censuses of the island during this period, we can understand how S:t Barthélemy adapted to these changes and to what degree legal freedom meant financial freedom and changes in labor structures. To which degree did household structures change? To which degree did people of color become proprietors of their own houses? Did the type of labor in Gustavia change from the 1830:s to the 1870:s? What methodological challenges must be considered for a digital representation of a colonial census?

Bio: *Ale Pålsson* is an postdoctorate researcher in History at Uppsala University, as well as an associate professor in History at Högskolan Dalarna. He is currently involved in the digitalization of Swedish colonial archives. His research interest involves, but is not limited to, Scandinavian presence in the Americas during the 19th century, political history and postcolonial theory. ale.palsson@hist.uu.se

Session D2: Framing anti-fascism: Conceptualising a working-class unity against the far right from Popular Front to People's Parks and beyond

Matias Kaihovirta, Åbo Akademi University: *Fighting for anti-fascist spaces: Swedish-speaking working class resistance against Finnish fascism in the 1930's*

This paper examines Finland's Swedish-speaking working class anti-fascism in the 1930's. The rise of Fascism and National Socialism in interwar Europe posed a threat to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. In Finland, the Swedish-speaking minority experienced that their position in the country was threatened by the domestic Finnish fascism that advocated a mononational nation-state, free from minorities such as the Finland-Swedes. The Swedish minority in Finland was by no means a politically or socially homogeneous group. Part of the Swedish-speaking population belonged to the working class and sympathized with and actively supported the socialist labour movement. During the interwar period, the Swedish-speaking working class experienced belonging to a doubly oppressed minority, as Swedish-speakers in a Finnish-dominated Finland and as working

class and socialists in the bourgeois-dominated Swedish-speaking Finland. For the Swedish-speaking working class, the rise of Fascism seemed to further reinforce the feeling of vulnerability and oppression. However, Fascism also mobilized the Swedish-speaking working-class to political resistance. The central question for this paper is how Swedish-speaking working class conducted anti-fascist resistance. Primary focus is on the use of spaces and what role the contention of different spaces played in Swedish-speaking working class anti-fascism in the 1930's.

Bio: Matias Kaihovirta is Docent and Project researcher "Finland-Swedish Anti-Fascism" (SLS), Nordic History, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland. mkaihovi@abo.fi

Pontus Järvstad, University of Iceland: *The Many Conceptualizations of Anti-fascism: Historiographical Considerations for the Developing Field of Nordic Anti-fascist Studies*

Today the extreme right is growing globally threatening diverse societies and social movements. Many who are challenging this trend self-identify and organize themselves as anti-fascists. At the same time there is a developing field of Nordic Anti-fascist studies. But defining anti-fascism remains as scholarly contentious as that of defining fascism. The proposed paper will analyze the historiography of anti-fascism and some of the theoretical fault lines facing our field today will be explored. In what ways does the historiography and interpretations of fascism inform the conceptualizations of anti-fascism? How should we set out to distinguish anti-racist movements from anti-fascist ones, and how does this distinction inform our conceptualization of anti-fascism?

Bio: Pontus Järvstad is a Ph.D student at the University of Iceland working on a comparative study of postwar anti-fascism in the Nordic Countries. His master's thesis (2017) was on the topic of continuities of colonialism in fascist ideology and practices.

Tomas Widing, University of Stockholm: *Anti-Fascism as a Communist strategy for Working-Class Unity: The Communist Party of Sweden and the Jansson-Mineur- Committee 1935-1938.*

The Communist Party of Sweden founded the Jansson-Mineur-Committee in 1935 to support two Swedish seamen imprisoned in Nazi Germany. The Committee united communists, social democrats and trade-union activists. Guided by the Popular Front Policy, the communists managed to use the Committee to achieve rather considerable anti-fascist unity within parts of the working-class movement. The communists' goal was to transfer this anti-fascist unity into a broader working-class unity, which was supposed to be the basis of a Popular Front alliance and to increase the political influence of the Communist Party. This paper shows how the communists wielded decisive influence on the Committee, how they worked to create anti-fascist unity and discusses why this never translated into a more extensive working-class unity. Furthermore, the paper shows and discusses what the anti-fascist unity consisted of on a practical and basic organisational level.

Bio: I am a PhD student at the Department of History at Stockholm University. In my thesis, I study the development of the Communist Party of Sweden between 1943-1953. During this period the Communist Party adopted the policy of the “peaceful road to socialism”. My study focuses on the concrete political practice and the organisational development of the Party. My main interest is the contradictions between revolutionary and reformist politics: Why does revolutionary working-class organisations tend to become reformist in a capitalist and democratic society? I have formerly mainly studied the Communist Party of Sweden during the 1930s. tomas.widing@historia.su.se

Session E1: Nordic Communist Activists

Kim Frederichsen, independent researcher (Denmark): *Martin Andersen Nexø – a most debated communist life*

In 2019 the 150th birthday of the Danish author Martin Andersen Nexø was widely celebrated as *the* proletarian author of *Pelle the Conqueror* and *Ditte, Child of Man*. However, his life and work as a communist and defender of the USSR is very often overlooked. I therefore propose a paper that discuss MAN with emphasis on his communist affiliation, including:

- His long road to party membership
- Defense of the domestic and foreign policies of Stalinist USSR
- His role as initiator and very active in the Danish solidarity and friendship work with the USSR.
- His participation in the works of front organizations after World War II
- And I will argue that his party membership and pro-Soviet activities became the central points of the fierce public debates about his person several times during his lifetime.

I will base my presentation on the various MAN archives in Denmark, his Comintern file, and political publications.

Bio: Kim Frederichsen is PhD (dissertation defended at the University of Copenhagen in 2017), and independent scholar. Co-editor of the review section of the peer-reviewed journal *Arbejderhistorie*. I have published on Danish-Soviet relations, cultural cold war history, communism, and Russian/Soviet history.

Liisa Lalu, University of Turku: *'Home again. The battle season is ahead.'* *The diary of a young radical communist woman*

This paper examines the diary of Hanna, a young woman who was part of a radical youth communist movement connected to an interior, pro-soviet opposition of the Finnish Communist Party. The movement attracted a lot of youth and students at the beginning of the 1970s Finland. In 1974, Hanna was already in the center of the student organization and stayed in the movement throughout the decade. However, in the pages of her diary, there is a constant tension between Hanna - the communist individual – and the collective of the communist movement and its requirements. This paper focuses on the concept and processes of belonging and not belonging and the ways in which these processes are connected to the gender.

Bio: Liisa Lalu is a Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural History at the University of Turku. In her doctoral dissertation, she studies the political narratives and life stories of women who participated in the Marxist-Leninist youth movement in the 1970s. Lalu is interested in youth activism, social movements, oral history, and life stories with the focus on girl studies and gender history. lhlalu@utu.fi

Session E2: Communism as Ideal and Reality in a Gendered Perspective

Silja Pitkänen, University of Jyväskylä: *Children in Soviet Propaganda Photographs in the 1930s*

In the presentation, I focus on the findings of my dissertation work (2020) in which I explore representations of children in the propaganda photographs published in the magazine *USSR in Construction*. The time frame of the research is from the first issue of the magazine in 1930 to the beginning of the Second World War in Europe.

In the propaganda photographs children were depicted, for example, living in new, spacious and light apartments of the new industrial towns, as well as enjoying themselves at Pioneer camps. Moreover, children were often shown in political contexts. Children were presented literally as new Soviet persons, and via the representations, the ideal Soviet Union was imagined and visualised.

In many photographs, children were also represented in somewhat surprising contexts. One image, for example, shows a mother in a maternity hospital, holding a newborn baby on her arms – and at the same time voting for the Soviet constitution of 1936, the so-called Stalin constitution. In the presentation, I analyse these representations and summarise the discoveries of my dissertation work.

Bio: Silja Pitkänen is a postdoctoral researcher (currently on a parental leave) at the Department of History and Ethnology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her research interests include propaganda art, cultural history of the so-called totalitarian states, history of childhood, and the use of images – especially photographs – as historical sources. silja.k.pitkanen@student.jyu.fi

Yulia Gradskova, Mid Sweden University: *The emancipation of women from the countries of state socialism as an example for women from the “developing countries”*

The Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF) was created in 1945 in Paris. It was a transnational women’s organization supporting the Soviet Union and the “Eastern bloc” in the Cold War competition. In my presentation I show that while the WIDF official publications presented the experience of the state socialist countries with respect to women’s emancipation as a very successful one, the classified archival reports indicate that practical encounters with the Soviet reality led to contradictory impressions. My presentation is based on the documents from the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) that preserved a lot of the WIDF materials, as well as on the WIDF official publications and documents. The ideas expressed in my presentation are connected to my book on the WIDF, the Cold War and women from the Global South, published in 2021.

Heidi Kurvinen, University of Turku, Finland: *Portrayal of Soviet women in the Finnish print media of the 1960s and 1970s*

During the 1960s and 1970s, an intensive discussion of gender roles, gender equality and feminism took place in the Finnish public sphere. As part of this discussion women’s magazines and newspapers published articles in which women’s situation in various parts of the world were described. In this presentation, I will focus on the print media’s portrayal of Soviet women and ask how these texts participated in the negotiations of women’s status in Finland. How did the portrayal change over the years?

The Cold War division between the East and the West forms the historical context of the presentation. While the women’s liberation movement proceeded in the West during the studied years, the Soviet women were either viewed as more emancipated nor sufferers of the double burden. This could be seen also in the Finnish media: right-wing papers were more eager to pinpoint the flaws of the Soviet system whereas left-wing papers used the Soviet woman as an image of the future woman.

The presentation is based on digitised newspaper articles that have been collected from the National Library of Finland’s digital interface. Additionally, magazines from women’s magazines have been collected manually. The analysis adopts methods of close reading.

The presentation is part of an ongoing book project on feminism in the Finnish mainstream media between the years of 1968 and 1991.

Bio: PhD, title of docent, Heidi Kurvinen (heidi.kurvinen@utu.fi) works as a collegium fellow at the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) in University of Turku. She is specialised in media history and gender history. Among others Kurvinen is active in Nordic Media History Network (NOMEH).

Mari-Leen Tammela, University of Tartu / Estonian War Museum: *70 years in the communist party: its ideals and realities on the example of life and career of Olga Lauristin*

My paper will follow the life and political career of Olga Lauristin (née Künnapuu, 1903–2005), one of the longest-serving members in the Estonian Communist Party, throughout the 20th century. On one hand, Olga Lauristin’s life story contains several “typical” elements that are present in many life stories of communist youth activists of the 1920s such as working in trade unions as a women’s organizer, participation in campaigns of the Communist International, and eventually political imprisonment. Olga’s story differs from that of, for example, her Western counterparts by the fact, that she had the opportunity to put her political ideals into practice in 1940, when the Soviet Union occupied the Republic of Estonia and the former clandestine Estonian Communist Party (ECP) came to power. Olga Lauristin took full advantage of the opportunity and rose to several prominent political positions in the new structure of governance. After World War II she served as a minister of social welfare, later as a minister of cinematography in the government of the Estonian SSR before she and her family got caught up in the campaign against bourgeois nationalists in the late 1940s. How much did that change her attitudes towards the party and ideology? My presentation is based predominantly on archival sources from the National Archives of Estonia and in terms of context and background is partly based on my doctoral dissertation.

Bio: Mari-Leen Tammela, PhD, graduated University of Tartu (Estonia) as a historian. She is dividing her time between Estonian War Museum – General Laidoner Museum and her *alma mater* where she works as a research fellow in archival studies specializing in political and social movements in interwar era Estonia.

She is especially interested in personal journeys and identities. These themes also echoed through her doctoral dissertation “Biographical Approach to the Study of the History of the Communist Party of Estonia (1920–40)”, a qualitative collective biography, she defended in 2018 at the University of Tartu.

Session E3: Transnational Lives and Movements

Torkil Sørensen, independent researcher (Denmark): *Communists from Germany as refugees in Denmark, 1933-39 and the Danes assisting them*

Denmark and the small Danish communist party DKP became rather important for the big German communist party KPD, gaining almost 17 % of the votes in the last free election in November 1932, after it had to work as illegal party with many in exile after Hitler took power in late January 1933. More fled West to for instance France, but hundreds of German communists fled North to Denmark, and even more passed here in transit for instance to Soviet Union. KPD also had a regional office trying to get in touch with illegal groups still intact inside Germany, from 1935-39 named AL Nord(=North). The Paper is based on research in SAPMO in Bundesarchiv in Berlin, BStU or Stasi Archive also in Berlin, the Archive of the Danish Labour Movement and Rigsarkivet in Copenhagen. A general overview of the refugee situation 1933-39 will be given, and then a short presentation of the situation each year. Most communists and others from the Left wing arrived the first years after 1933. Then it was possible for some to get visa further to Soviet Union, but with Stalin’s terror 1936-38

foreigners as Germans were seen as enemies, so that door almost closed. Instead, some volunteered – or were pressed – to fight in the Civil War in Spain from Autumn 1936. Others started to move further to Sweden or Norway, while some settled in Denmark – a number of them remaining in Denmark after 1945. The situation changed dramatically before that with German occupation of Denmark 9 April 1940-5 May 1945, and the new threats will briefly be presented, but the main focus will be on the years 1933-39. The situation for the German refugees will be presented through the personal stories of 7 communists, one each arriving in the years from 1933 to 1939. Also, their Danish contacts will be presented. Officially most communists got support from the communist led relief organisation Red Aid, but some were able to get better assistance from the Social democratic Matteotti committee, the Jewish Committee of 4 May 1933 or a committee for intellectuals supported among others by Niels Bohr, famous Danish physician. In reality, the most important support – especially for communist refugees most often without permit to work – came from ordinary people giving a bed or a meal even if many of the Danes were poor themselves in an era of big unemployment. The sources about who participated in that kind of practical solidarity are sparse, but some Germans have later mentioned their Danish contacts for instance in written memoirs written in GDR/DDR Era to SED, the ruling party 1946-1989. Few memoirs were meant to be published, but now it is possible to find them in archives in Berlin. Danish sources also now and then mention German contacts, but a lot of material was destroyed during the German occupation, an already before 1940 the conspiratorial rules meant the people in contact with German communists were careful not to write too much down. But something can be found and will be presented.

Bio: In 2008 Master Thesis in history from the University of Copenhagen on *"The relationship between the GDR and the Danish left-wing parties in the Berlin Wall era from 1961 to 1989"*. In 2009 MA in history from the University of Copenhagen.

"1066 - Journal of History" printed in December 2009 *"A short, sad story of the GDR and the Danish left"*, in compressed form echoing the conclusions of the Master Thesis.

"Arbejderhistorie" in July 2014 published *"The GDR's relationship with "No to Nuclear Weapons" (a Danish Peace group) - from positive contact to mutual suspicion."*, based on documents about the main character, Troels Toftkjær, from BStU (=the Stasi Archive).

October 2017 was in charge of a study circle, 3 evenings, in Arbejdermuseet (Museum of Labour) about German refugees in Denmark 1933-45. February 2018 made a small exhibition and gave a lecture about Brecht and other German refugees on Southern Funen 1933-39 in the Library of Svendborg during a Brecht festival. October 2018, 2019 and 2020 gave lectures about illegal apparatus of German KPD in Comintern Era in Arbejdermuseet. June 2019 spoke at a scientific Comintern conference at RGASPI in Moscow. Worked as a journalist and later a communications consultant from 1983 to 2008. 2009-2017 international advisor in the Nordic Council.

Michał Gęsiarz, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland): *AKP (m-l) and Democratic Kampuchea: between naivety and postcolonial patterns*

The aim of my paper is to revisit the relations between the Workers' Communist Party [AKP(m-l)] and the Khmer Rouge using the concepts of postcolonial approach. A rereading of

Maoist texts from the 1970-81 period and the delegation memoirs written by P. Steigan and E. Eide was enacted with particular attention for emerging patterns of orientalism: imaginative geographies, representation, stereotypization and pilgrimages. This case has been a major part of both public and academic debate on AKP(m-l) since 2003. In the prior explanations, concepts such as the “intelligentsia’s gullibility” (B. Hagtvet) and “political pilgrimages” (N. Brandal) were developed. Such approaches give an important, yet incomplete picture, as they focus either on moral or fragmented aspects. Paper’s emphasis has thus been placed on group’s attitude toward the Third World which led to a fascination with Pol Pot and later genocide denial. Relying on previous research I claim that a replication of orientalist patterns may be considered as a reason behind their misjudgements and concerned as a part of movement’s solidarity traditions. The results of my analysis can not only contribute to the debate on the described events, but also provide a basis for critical reflections on transcultural relations of the Left.

Bio: Ph.D. candidate in history at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. I have studied at Adam Mickiewicz University, University of Silesia in Katowice and University of Oslo. My future thesis will concern the Norwegian-Polish relations in the 1980s with emphasis for Norwegian press coverage and grassroot solidarity movements. My research interests include the history of left-wing politics in Poland and Scandinavia, history of the welfare models and reflections on writing the “history from below” both in Polish and Scandinavian contexts. The genesis and development of Norwegian Maoism was the topic of my master thesis.

michal.gesiarz96@gmail.com or micges@amu.edu.pl

Session F2: Migration, the Nordic Welfare State and Labour Market Model

Mai Lundemark, Lund University: *Representing workers of migrant background – discourse and action in trade union practice in Denmark*

How do trade unions represent workers of migrant background? This question is becoming ever more relevant as globalized capitalism is driving increased worker migration across national borders and trade union membership rates are declining in many European welfare states. Based on a sociological study using ethnographic methods to explore the relationship between discourse and action in the day-to-day representation work in two major unions in Denmark, this presentation shows how an ethnicized and racialized myth of the Danish nation plays a central role in contemporary union practice. Depending on whether discursive constructs of national difference is said to matter for union work and how such matters are responded to in terms of action, union representation may be categorized as externalization, ignorance, internalization and/or misrepresentation. The empirical findings of the study give reason to argue that a colorblind outlook in union practice contributes to isolate workers of migrant background and maintain class inequalities amongst workers constructed as national and migrants.

Bio: Dr. Mai Lundemark works as a senior lecturer in sociology at Lund University. Her research focuses on social constructs of class, nation and race and their intersections in

trade union organizations in Nordic welfare state settings. Her work draws on sociological theory of class, race, discourse and organization which she combines with research on industrial relations and trade union revitalization. Her doctoral research from Uppsala University, *Constructing workers of migrant background* (2021) is the basis for her presentation. Mai.lundemark@soc.lu.se

Daniel Stridh, Stockholm University: *Between Inclusion and Exclusion: The Conflicting Meanings of Migration and (Child)Care Work within the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union 1972-1987*

As a labour union that organizes workers within the highly restructured Swedish public sector, the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union (Kommunal) constitutes an interesting case study for historical research about the interrelationship between migration, care work and the concurrent processes of feminization, racialization and precarization in the labour market. In my paper, I aim to investigate how Kommunal historically has understood the issues of migration/'migrants' and (child)care work with a focus on the time period 1972-1987, a period when the emergence of new migration and care work regimes came to reorganize the Swedish labor market and further differentiate its work force along ethnically and gendered lines. How did Kommunal understand these changes? Which problematics, union interests and subject positions were articulated in Kommunals union discourses in relation to these processes?

Bio: Daniel Stridh is a PhD student at the Department of Economic History and International Relations at Stockholm University. daniel.stridh@ekohist.su.se

Session F3: Exiled Work: Activist labour in the Nordic countries

Fernando Camacho Padilla, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid: *Activism of the Chilean exiles in Sweden: political organisation, actions and major demands*

During the Military Regime of Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990), Sweden hosted one of the largest Chilean communities in the World. Besides the great distance and the few historical contacts between Sweden and Chile, the massive arrival of Chileans was strongly related to the humanitarian values of Prime Minister Olof Palme and the Swedish Ambassador to Chile, Harald Edelstam, together with the great commitment of the Swedish left. Most of the refugees were militants of different political parties and organizations of Chile, and once in Sweden, they soon organized their struggle for the restoration of democracy and the respect of the Human Rights of their homeland. This presentation will focus on the political organization of the Chilean exiles in Sweden and will analyze their strategies and solidarity campaigns.

Bio: Fernando Camacho Padilla (fernando.camacho@uam.es) is an assistant lecturer in history at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). He holds a double PhD from UAM and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. His latest book is *Una vida para Chile. La*

solidaridad y la comunidad chilena en Suecia, 1970-2010 (Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, 2011).

Emma Lundin, Malmö University: *Representing the struggle: the lives of ANC activists in Stockholm, 1976-1994*

Emma Lundin uncovers the conditions under which South African employees at the ANC's office in Stockholm conducted their work across the Nordic countries

Bio: Emma Lundin (emma.lundin@mau.se) holds a PhD from Birkbeck, University of London, and is a senior lecturer in history at Malmö University in Sweden. Emma is interested in 20th-century liberation movements and philosophies in a global perspective, and the connections between southern Africa and northern Europe.

Session G1: The establishment of the system of collective bargaining

Lars-Erik Hansen, Oslo Metropolitan University: *Kampen om löneutrymmet. Tjänstemännens lönepolitik i Larorganisationens (LO) Skugga*

Landsorganisationen hade verkat för den organiserade arbetarklassens löner i decennier när tjänstemannaområdet fick förenings- och förhandlingrätt 1936. Konkurrensen om löneutrymmet hade under 1920-talet gynnat LO kollektivet till tjänstemannaorganisationernas illa dolda förtret. Att ta upp kampen om lönerna fick från början högsta prioritet inom tjänstemannområdet med Svenska industritjänstemannaförbundet (Sif) i spetsen. År 1943 fick Sif ett eget kollektivavtal. Samma år startade förbundet arbetet med ett system som stöd vid löneförhandlingar. Sif tog täten i arbetet och lämnade den året därpå bildade centralorganisationen TCO åt sidan, vilket skulle få konsekvenser för lönepolitiken inom tjänstemannområdet där det största förbundet, Sif, blev drivande i lönefrågor med en framtida kartellbildning som följd (PTK, OFR).

Fokus för Sif:s lönepolitik blev en nomenklatur, en klassifikation av samtliga tjänster inom svensk industri. Systemet byggdes upp genom intervjuer av personal på golvet. I en rad projekt genomfördes en indelning i befattningsfamiljer, varvid gemensamma släktdrag identifierades såsom försäljningsingenjör, kod 8104. Befattningen graderades bl.a. efter bedömd svårighetsgrad. För tjänstemän inom privat sektor kallades nomenklaturen Befattning, nomenklatur, tjänstemän (BNT) och för statlig sektor BESTA. Idag finns inte BNT kvar, men BESTA existerar som nomenklatur för statligt anställda.

(...) Detta paper ska redovisa uppkomsten och utvecklingen av tjänstemannaområdets lönepolitik under den tid då den svenska modellen stod på sin höjdpunkt och hur samarbetet bröt samman. Som en del i presentationen redovisas informationsutbytet med Tyskland och andra länder.

Bio: Lars-Erik Hansen (PhD) is head of TAM-Arkiv, an archival institution in Sweden for White collar trade union archives, and associate professor of archival science in the Department of Archivistics, Library and Information Science at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway. He is

the author and editor of many books in history (white collar trade unions and labour) and archival science. He has also written several articles in books and journals as author and co-author. His articles have been published in many journals, including *Journal of Archival Organization* and *Archives and Manuscripts*.

Ken Bjerregaard, independent: *When private officials took to the fight for collective bargaining*

In the early 1930s, the trade unions for private sector officials (officials in Dk and No) in Sweden formed a joint central organization, with about 20,000 members. The biggest challenge was getting the civil servants' unions approved by employers. Only then could they create collective agreements for all officials. But the employers' resistance was fierce. Instead, the way to negotiations went over the state and legislation. In 1936, a law was introduced on the right to negotiate for civil servants' unions. This forced employers to negotiate but not to sign collective agreements. It was not until 1942 that officials received the first collective agreement. The question that is asked is why did employers have such a strong opposition to collective agreements for civil servants? Since 1905, the same employer had collective agreements with the workers within LO (The Swedish Trade Union Confederation).

Bio: Ken Bjerregaard is a PhD student in history at Linköping University. My thesis studies the union formation of civil and public servants in Sweden until 1945.

Hannes Rolf, Uppsala University: *Organized Interests, Power, and Rent*

This paper is a study of the changing power relations on the rental market during the period of rent control in Sweden from 1942 to 1968-1978 and, in particular, how this affected the interest organisations of the rental market. The present Swedish system of collectively bargained rents for apartments is based on the idea that the strong interest organisations of the rental market can and should represent tenant and landlord.. During the 1920s and 1930s Sweden had seen the rise of a fast growing tenants' movement, challenging the property owners and forcing them into accepting collective bargaining. The threat of soaring rents during WWII made the government issue a rent control act and rents, like other goods and expenses, were regulated from 1942. This paper examines the roles played by the interest organisations of the rental market during the years of rent control in the institutional evolution of the rental market from rent control to a system of collective bargaining. The organisations of the rental market are relatively underresearched and this paper can hopefully add some knowledge in understanding the history of the Swedish housing regime and a system of rent setting that today is perhaps more challenged than ever.

Bio: Hannes Rolf is doing a postdoc project at the Institute for Housing and Urban Research (IBF) at Uppsala University, Sweden. He is currently doing research on rent control and interest organisations. Hannes's research interests are:

- Social movements, contentious politics, voluntary associations and interest organisations
- Contentious performances such as rent strikes and similar actions.

- Power relations, collective mobilisation and collective bargaining.
 - Urban history and the history of housing, housing policy and housing organisations.
- hannes.rolf@ibf.uu.se

Session H1: Strikes and Lockouts in a Nordic and International Perspective Part I: Perspectives and sources

Jesper Hamark, University of Gotenburg: *Lockouts in the Scandinavian Countries, c. 1900-1930*

A statistical overview of strikes and lockouts in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, c. 1900–1938, shows that employers contributed substantially to overall militancy. For instance, in 1920's Denmark 65 per cent of all workers involved in conflicts were locked out.

The mass sympathy lockout was introduced in Denmark in 1899 and became the raw model for Scandinavian employers for decades to come. In the early stage, the lockout was used to secure managerial control in exchange for union recognition. Later, it was primarily used to lower wages in periods of economic contraction.

The efficiency of the sympathy lockout rested on the presence of a centralised, disciplined opponent – the social democratic trade union movement. Also, employers had to overcome the problem of collective action: Individual companies had strong incentives not to cooperate, but rather to take a free ride and let other companies carry the burden of the lockout.

A quantitative comparison with the Netherlands shows that Scandinavia was a lockout region. The ratio of locked out workers in Denmark to the Netherlands was 6:1. Apparently Danish and Dutch capitalists chose differently how to combat unions and strikes.

Bio: Jesper Hamark is a researcher at the Unit for Economic History, Department of Economy and Society, University of Gothenburg. He is currently writing a book on labour conflicts, *Strejk – från Satans svarta kvarnar till gigeconomien*, to be published by Verbal förlag in 2022.

Tobias Karlsson, Lund University: *Digitized Newspapers as a Source for Historical Strike Data: Problems and Opportunities*

This paper discusses the problems and opportunities with using digitized newspapers as a source in research on labour conflicts. The discussion is based on an existing dataset, namely Axel Raphael's list of work stoppages in Sweden 1859-1902. The dataset, which originally was collected by retrospectively browsing through newspapers, pre-dates the Swedish official statistics on work stoppages that began in 1903. Whereas Raphael's data have been used to illustrate the long-run development of strikes, labour historians have been hesitant or completely dismissive towards the usefulness of his work. This paper reviews, and deepens, previous assessments of Raphael's data and compares his data with the official statistics for the period after 1903. This renewed assessment leads to three conclusions. Firstly, the coverage of the data is much better after 1885 than before. Trends and fluctuations in conflict frequency obtained from Raphael's data for the later period are probably accurate. Secondly, there are also in the later period a lot of missing information in

how conflicts are described, for example with regard to number of participants and outcomes. Thirdly, there are good opportunities to complement, and enhance, Raphael's dataset by browsing through more newspapers or consulting other sources.

Bio: Tobias Karlsson is associate professor at the Department of Economic History, Lund University and affiliated to the cross-disciplinary project *Historisk arbetslivsforskning* (HALF) at Campus Helsingborg, Lund University. Karlsson wrote his PhD thesis on mechanization and personnel reductions at the Swedish Tobacco Monopoly and has since then researched 19th and 20th century labour markets and employment relations, often based on micro-level data and combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. Among other things, Karlsson has been involved in digitizing the official Swedish statistics on work stoppages for the period 1903-1927, which is available on <https://www.lusem.lu.se/economic-history/databases/economic-history-data/labour-conflicts>.

Flemming Mikkelsen, prev. University of Copenhagen: *Social Movement Unionism in Denmark, 1914-2000*

The advantage of mass organization has been extensively documented in labour history and organizational theory, but the analysis of social movement unionism in Denmark in the 20th Century shows that mobilization from below with great success has challenged the established centralized labour market organizations and enforced reforms.

In this chapter, I investigate the interaction between the employers, the centralized labour market organizations and the challengers, i.e. different types of action networks, from 1914 until 2000. The study is based on strike statistics, catalogs of contentious collective actions (demonstrations, riots, blockades, occupations of factories, sabotage) and recording of informal grass roots movements besides organizational narratives. The analysis detects three waves of social movement unionism in Denmark: the end of World War I, the Second World War and the long protest cycle from 1967-85. They were not only characterized by increasing mobilization from below, but also a renewal of the action repertoire and a sharpening of the ideological and discursive currents.

However, the apparent success of social movement unionism may not lead to the conclusion that social movement unionism represents an alternative to mass organizations. Social movement organizations relied heavily on the resources trade unions, directly or indirectly, made available in the form of money, communication technologies, knowledge, political connections, strategies and staff, and not least shop stewards, who often linked the different professions and work places to each other. In other words, the alternative and oppositional forms of mobilization and organization acquired their main resources from and partly owed their existence to the established mass organizations.

Bio: Flemming Mikkelsen holds a Doctorate in Political Science and an MA in History. He is working in the fields of social movements, labour activism, ethnic relations and historical sociology, and has written several books in these fields and published articles in national and international journals. Over the years, he has established professional networks with scholars and institutions in the Nordic countries, Europe and the USA. At present, he is retired and works as independent researcher. Latest book *Popular Struggle and Democracy in Scandinavia, 1700-Present* (Palgrave 2018). He is currently working together with

cand.mag. Jesper Jørgensen on an anthology *Trade Union Activism in the Nordic Countries, 1900-Present* (Palgrave, to be published in 2022).

Session H2: Strikes and Lockouts in a Nordic and International Perspective Part II: Cases

Erik Bengtsson, Lund University: *The evolution of popular politics in Sweden, c. 1866-1899: the case of folkemöten*

In the mid-20th century, Sweden distinguished itself as one of the most organized and participatory democracies in the world. But in the late nineteenth century the situation was much the opposite – Sweden had the lowest degree of suffrage in Western Europe, and miniscule political participation. To explain this turnaround, this paper explores extra-parliamentary political activity in the period of the very exclusive two-chamber system of 1866. I investigate a wide array of political meetings arranged under the header of *folkemöten*, “popular meetings”, using digitalized newspapers from the southern province of Skåne from 1866 to 1899. The paper adds a new aspect to our understanding of Swedish democratization, showing the severe political and social polarization of Sweden during this time.

Bio: Erik Bengtsson is an associate senior lecturer (*biträdande lektor*) and *docent* of Economic History at Lund University, Sweden. He defended his PhD thesis *Essays on Trade Unions and Income Distribution* in Gothenburg in 2013 and has since then published on wage formation, income and wealth distribution, agrarian history, etc. erik.bengtsson@ekh.lu.se

Magnus Olofsson, Lund University: *Contested streets. Marching and demonstrating in Stockholm, 1887-1920*

Repertoires of contention change. It is clear that during the 19th and early 20th century, swedes learned to stage marches to make political claims, something that was virtually unknown in Sweden before the mid-19th century. At first, the oligarchy that held power in Sweden mostly accepted political marching in the streets, but when in the mid-1880s the social democratic worker's movement started to hold demonstrations in Stockholm they took issue with this way of politizing the public spaces of the capital. A bylaw in 1886 decreed that all public marching in the capital henceforth needed the approval of the authorities. The bylaw remained in force up to and beyond the years of the “democratic breakthrough” (1917-1921), giving the authorities control over political marching in the capital. This paper analyses political marching in Stockholm in the years 1887-1920, focussing on which groups that applied to stage political marches, which were allowed to do so by the authorities, and how this changed during the period, thus adding to our knowledge of the development of a democratic repertoire of contention in Sweden.

Bio: Magnus Olofsson, PhD, is a researcher at the Department of History, Lund university and an affiliated researcher at the Department of Economic History Lund university. His research interests are Contentious Politics Studies, political radicalism, democratization and labour history, focussing on Swedish 19th and early 20th century history.

magnus.olofsson@hist.lu.se

Tapio Bergholm, University of Eastern Finland: *Divergent interpretations of Leino Strikes in the Spring 1948 among Finnish labour history*

Finland left the Second World War in autumn 1944. After general elections in March 1945 Agrarian League, Social Democratic Party and Finnish People's Democratic League (SKDL, Communist front organisation for elections) formed government. Path of the two coalition governments of these big three – first led by prime minister J. K. Paasikivi and second by prime Mauno Pekkala – in period 1945-1948 were complicated and conflict prone. Majority of Finnish Eduskunta voted for no-confidence to Communist interior minister Yrjö Leino in spring 1948. Finnish Communist Party organised strike movement to keep Ministry of internal affairs in their hands. The movement was not successful because President J. K. Paasikivi categorically refused to nominate a new Communist interior minister. Conflict was short and so called SKDL-Socialist Eino Kilpi became new interior minister.

Several researchers, especially professor Kimmo Rentola, have repeatedly argued that strike movement organised by Communist was successful, but orders or advice from Soviet Embassy or Soviet Communist Party forced to bring to end strong movement before final goal was achieved. On the other hand, researcher, myself included, familiar with trade union, employer, Communist trade union section and Social Democratic sources argue that the Leino strikes were utter failure.

In my paper I will discuss, how two fundamentally different approaches towards same event in contemporary history can be reproduced due to different path dependent use, selection and approach to relevant sources and their interpretation. I will also try to comprehend and understand, why my own interpretation has not been accepted or not even included in new authoritative analyses of Leino strikes.

Session H3: Protest! Political Activism post 1960 Part I: Activist Memories

Arja Turunen, University of Jyväskylä: *Oral History Life Stories of Finnish Second-Wave Feminists: Political Activism and Personal Experiences*

The so-called second wave feminist movement that arose in the Western world in the 1960s grew out of the contemporary left-wing political thinking and activism but also represented a critique towards it. In my paper I will discuss Finnish second-wave feminists' personal perspectives to political activism and party-political engagement. In co-operation with the Finnish Labour Archives (Työväen Arkisto) and People's Archives (Kansan Arkisto), I have collected oral history interviews with Finnish second-wave feminists in order to find out how and why they joined the feminist movement, and how they have practiced feminist aims and ideology in their lives. In my presentation, I will focus on the relationship of feminist identity

and political ideology and activism in the interviewees' life stories as feminists. Second-wave feminist activism started in Finland as well in Sweden in the 1960s as "sex-role" activism. Proponents of the radical sex role ideology argued that men and women should have the same rights, possibilities and responsibilities in the society. Main representatives of the ideology in Finland were the civic association Yhdistys 9 (Association 9) and the radical-left women's organisation the Finnish Women's Democratic League. Association 9 represented contemporary intellectual radicalism that emphasised differentiation from political parties but its main aim was to influence political parties and political decision-making. The Association 9 was dissolved in 1970 as political parties adopted gender equality strategies on their agendas. The radical feminist movement was established during the 1970s. At first, it represented a critique towards party-political activism and favored small consciousness-raising groups instead. Oral history interviews that I have conducted however demonstrate that in the 1980s, feminist activists started to join political parties and the labor union to promote gender equality through the established political system. They did not renounce the critique towards traditional party-politics: their aim was also to reform political culture by applying feminist theories of power and organizing.

Bio: Arja Turunen, PhD, is a senior research fellow in Ethnology at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. In her research, she has focused on Finnish gender history with an oral history approach. Currently she studies the history of the Finnish second-wave feminist movement.

Jesper Jørgensen, Arbejdermuseet & ABA: *Solidarity with other 'others'. Life History Pathways into Political Activism on the Left, 1960-1990*

The present paper is anchored in the project Protest! – a Velux Foundation funded collaboration between the Workers Museum and Aarhus University. Through research, exhibition and teaching programs, the project examines change, continuity and variation in political activism on the political left-wing in Denmark 1960-2020. The prime empirical base is newly conducted interviews with 15 contemporary activists and 15 historical activists from the anti-Vietnam war, the anti-apartheid and the environmental movements. One key question is why or how people become activists. In explaining this the paper by analyzing life history pathways identifies patterns of family trajectories and transformative solidarity travels abroad but also finds great variations in personal backgrounds and motivations.

Bio: Jesper Jørgensen, historian and archivist at Arbejdermuseet & ABA. He is co-author/co-editor of *Den røde underverden* (2019), *Datskije kadry Moskvy v stalinskoje vremja* (2013), and *Komintern og de dansk-sovjetiske relationer* (2012). And co-editor of the journal *Arbejderhistorie* and co-organizer of NLHC2020.

Thomas Olesen, Aarhus University (co-written with Jesper Jørgensen): A new organizational paradigm? Comparing organization and resources in historical and contemporary social movements in Denmark 1960 - 2020

Session H4: Protest! Political Activism post 1960 Part II: Contemporary Activism

Jenny Jansson, Uppsala University (co-written with Katrin Uba): *Protests and collective bargaining: The Swedish case*

Although the number of strikes has declined in Sweden since the 1980s the industrial relations themselves have not necessarily become more peaceful – trade unions still use a significant amount of notices of industrial action as well as mobilize and join in various street protests during collective bargaining. This paper combines data from the Swedish Protest Database with data about notices of industrial action for analysing the waves of unions' protests in Sweden since the 1980s. It aims to explain the fluctuations of protesting with timing and content of collective bargaining process and political opportunities for protest (e.g., time to elections). The findings of this study contributes to developing current research on industrial conflict by moving beyond strikes and it demonstrates that even in the Nordic context trade unions have been active on the streets.

Bios: Katrin Uba (Uppsala University, katrin.uba@statsvet.uu.se) is Associate Professor in political science, focusing her research on social movements, the political power of protest, and labour movements' mobilization on-line.

Jenny Jansson (Uppsala University, jenny.jansson@statsvet.uu.se) works as a researcher at the Department of Government, Uppsala University. Her research interests include industrial relations, organizational theory and workers' education.

Flemming Mikkelsen, prev. University of Copenhagen: *Immigrant Mobilization and Activism in Denmark since 1965*

Since the loss of the predominantly German speaking duchies in 1864, the Danish population has been relatively homogenous with only Germans as recognized minority and Greenlanders as Danish citizens. From the mid-1960s, however, immigrants from especially Turkey, Pakistan and Yugoslavia joined the Danish labour force soon to be followed by immigrants and political refugees from mostly non-Western countries. According to *Statistics Denmark*, the number of immigrants and refugees plus descendants reached 51,661 in 1980, 114,108 in 1990 and 423,260 in 2015 corresponding to 7.5 percent of Denmark's total population. This inflow of migrants increased social and cultural diversity, and introduced ethnic minorities as political actors.

Bio: Flemming Mikkelsen holds a Doctorate in Political Science and an MA in History. He is working in the fields of social movements, labour activism, ethnic relations and historical sociology, and has written several books in these fields and published articles in national and international journals. Over the years, he has established professional networks with scholars and institutions in the Nordic countries, Europe and the USA. At present, he is retired and works as independent researcher. Latest book *Popular Struggle and Democracy in Scandinavia, 1700-Present* (Palgrave 2018). He is currently working together with

cand.mag. Jesper Jørgensen on an anthology *Trade Union Activism in the Nordic Countries, 1900-Present* (Palgrave, to be published in 2022).

Lasse Lindekilde, Aarhus University: *For the Climate... and Me: Weighing Common and Personal Interests in the Fight against Climate Change*

Session J1: Memories of Industry and Deindustrialization Processes in the Nordic Countries

Stefan Backius, Karlstad University: *Deindustrialization and rural community activism in 1980's*

The Swedish industrial region Bergslagen was first hit by “the steel crisis” in the late 1970s. In several minor industrial communities, local activism emerged as an antidote to ongoing global deindustrialization. Place based historical perspectives as dividing geography and historically strong trust in the municipalities as local resources for the implementation of postwar welfare state reforms, created specific conditions for local activism.

Resistance to Steel Mill closures was conducted within some local communities all politically and culturally dominated by the labour movement. The strong ties between trade unions and local city councils widened the areas of conflict locally. In this deindustrialization process, the role of the local community also became more important as large structures failed. The paper puts a local perspective on initial reactions and patterns of action in response to deindustrialization.

BIO: Stefan Backius, senior lecturer in history at Karlstad University in Sweden, interested in how global deindustrialization processes entangle with community decline, public memory and collective identification locally as well as how individuals, groups and societies remember and use historical events.

Irene Díaz Martínez, Archive de Fuentes Orales Para la Historia Social de Asturias: *Cultural memories of an industrial past*

Pete Pesonen, Finnish Labour Archives and University of Turku: *Finnish Factory “Homers” 1950—2000 — Workers and supervisors clandestine co-operation*

This paper discusses changes in working lives of industrial workers’ by focusing on history of factory "homer's" in Finland. A "homer" is an object made for one’s own benefit by a worker using his or her factory's equipment and materials. Homers were considered exist in the grey area between perks and pilferage from the workplace. Homers are part of less researched workers' culture which demonstrate workers' abilities to stretch the factory codes, and boundaries of permitted and prohibited action.

This paper focuses on how different occupational groups related to factory homers. I describe how employers tried to restrain homer-making by imposing clauses to workshop codes of conduct, and how workers and their supervisors reacted to the codes of conduct. In this paper I question the historical interpretation of homer activities as workers' rebellion against management. The key concept in the analysis of the homer activities is Alf Lüdtkes interpretation of *Eigensinn*. The concept signifies all modes of behavior exhibited by individual workers to create some autonomy between themselves both from authorities and from others. Another theoretical framework used on the paper is the concept of gray zone in organizations. Gray zones are areas where workers and their supervisors together engage in officially forbidden but nevertheless tolerated practices.

The main source of this paper is the collection of interviews of retired industrial workers. The collection includes 99 different informants who were interviewed in 2016—2018.

Bio: Pete Pesonen, Finnish researcher, working in the Finnish Labour Archives and preparing dissertation in university of Turku. Pesonen is board member in the Finnish Society for Labour history, and member of the steering group of the Finnish Oral History Network. Several articles and interviews about homer's in Finnish industry. pete.pesonen@utu.fi

Session J4: Rebellious Workers in Texts and Literature Part I

Magnus Nilsson, Malmö University: *Working-class literature as a literary and political phenomenon: the example of Stig Sjödin*

Bio: Magnus Nilsson, professor of comparative literature, Malmö university. Publications include *Literature and Class: Aesthetical-Political Strategies in Modern Swedish Working-Class Literature* (Berlin 2014) and *Working-Class Literature(s): Historical and International Perspectives* (ed. with John Lennon, Stockholm UP 2017).

Nicklas Freisleben Lund, University of Southern Denmark: *In ambivalent battle. The strike and the novel*

Bio: Nicklas Freisleben Lund, postdoc, Centre for Uses of Literature, Southern University of Denmark. Recipient of the The Danish Society for Working-class History's academic prize 2019 for the PhD thesis *In Ambivalent Battle. The Strike and the Novel, 1850-1950* (University of Copenhagen, 2018). Publications include several articles on class and precarity in contemporary Danish literature.

Lisbeth Gundlund Jensen, member of the Nexø Foundation Board (Denmark): *Contemporary Danish Social Literature in Historical Perspective*

The different perspective from which working class or underclass is depicted in the Danish literature is in many ways significant for the big issues of the historical periods.

I present for you three contemporary Danish writers with a certain social profile in their choice of motive: Thomas Korsgaard, Morten Pape and Merete Pryds Helle. All three of them depict the social environment as forgotten enclaves in the welfare society. They characterize in a sort of numbness their background as inhumane, and the welfare institutions seem far away. Who is to blame? I will try to elaborate on that question in a brief historical comparison with three earlier literary periods. I take you back to the rise of the naturalist writers in the 1870's and the 1880's, represented by the famous Danish writer Henrik Pontoppidan; to Nexø, Skjoldborg and Aakjær in the beginning of the 19. century, and finally two famous Danish socialist writers from the 1930's, Kirk and Scherfig.

Secondly I present 4 new Danish immigrant writers, and first-movers on the literary stage in Denmark. They represent a rebellion towards the dominating attitude from Danish society towards Islamic integration as well as the Islamic attitude to western integration.

Bio: I received the title of Magister Artium from The Department of Literary Studies, Copenhagen University in 1984. Later I minored in Social Science from Department of Social Studies. My field of research as well as my publications has mostly focused on popular literature. I have been employed in teaching positions at universities and high schools. I'm member of the Board of Martin Andersen Nexø Foundation. My latest publications (articles) deals with the conception of Martin Andersen Nexø's "Pelle the Conqueror" historically and in contemporary theater plays and film (2020), and an analysis of 4 contemporary Danish immigrant writers (2021).

Jussi Lahtinen, Tampere University: *Finnish working-class authors of the 1970s: Dissidents of the Grand Modernization*

1970s was the last heyday of the traditional working-class literature in Finland. During the decade, this literary trend was partly connected with the counter-culture radicalism of the 1960s, but foremost it was continuum of the long-lasting traditions of the Finnish social realism. Typically, working-class novel of the 1970s includes strong social criticism, vulgar language, unconventional topics, and left-wing attitudes. Authors of that time can be compared to the realist and naturalist authors of the 19th century: they were broad-minded, yet socialist, individuals, who pointed out the faults of the society from the perspective of the "weak and insecure common people".

Authors of that period highlight the problematic relationship between rapid modernization and the working-class. The conflict between cultural liberalism and conservatism, the expanding mental gap between the actual working-class and the elite of the labor parties, the fear of the economical internationalization, distinction between the affluent working-class and heterogeneous "underclass" and the inequality between sexes are all visible in the 1970s narratives. Indeed, authors were first and foremost dissidents of the Grand Modernization, pointing out the faults of the capitalistic society and the problems inside the labor movement.

Bio: Jussi Lahtinen is a PhD student from the Tampere University, Finland. He has been working on his dissertation for three and half years in a doctoral programme in history. In his

study, Lahtinen uses Finnish working-class literature from the 1970s as a source material for the historical welfare state research. (jussi.lahtinen@tuni.fi)

Session J5: Rebellious Workers in Texts and Literature Part II

Małgorzata Drwal, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań: *South African workers' dissident voice in song and poetry*

This presentation approaches South African workers' song and poetry as a kind of protest literature expressing, reflecting and shaping the identity of a non-dominant social group at the moment of transition. It gives a glimpse of the ethnic and language diversity of South African working class from the beginning of the 20th century until around 1994. Workers' songs and poems can be described as manifestations of cultural hybridity. As hybrid forms, they are a new quality that emerged at the intersection of local traditions and changing political and social circumstances.

Both white workers and workers of colour utilized their typical folk art forms to critically comment on their situation in an industrialised environment. White working-class from before the apartheid era, mostly Afrikaans-speaking, organized in trade unions, developed a new urban culture whose part were protest songs sung at rallies. These were adaptations of folk tunes with lyrics containing a political message. Workers of colour, in turn, made use of such traditional genres as praise poetry to glorify trade unionism and call for unity, while the isicathamiya music style (Zulu choral chants) evolved into popular music which reflected the sensibility of a displaced urban Black.

Bio: Małgorzata Drwal (AMU in Poznań, Poland) is assistant professor at the Department of Dutch and South African Studies at the Faculty of English of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland and research associate at the Department Afrikaans, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her research interests include working-class literature, sociology of literature, and cultural mobility. She is currently working on a project about the circulation of socialist and feminist thought between South Africa, the Netherlands, and Great Britain in the first half of the 20th century. maldrw@amu.edu.pl

Alpo Väkevää, University of Helsinki and Finnish Library of the Labour Movement: *A Call for Proletarian Morality: Raoul Palmgren on Art and Literature*

Raoul Palmgren (1912–1995) was one of the most important Finnish left-wing intellectuals of the 20th century. He started his career as a literature critic and editor in the 1930s, and from the 1930s onward he became known, for example, from his writings on Marxists aesthetics and Finnish cultural history.

In this paper, I study one of the Palmgren's main interests in the 1930s, moral discussion of art. During the decade, Palmgren evaluated art and art discussions in the light of his moral ideas. On this basis, he found that harmful moral values were often advocated in the field of

art, where bourgeois ideas were dominant. He vehemently criticized moral ideas he did not accept, and sought to bring art in line with justifiable moral ideas, which meant for him socialist moral ideas. He was a moralist, although he sometimes denied the importance of morality.

Palmgren's moral ideas reflected the general tendencies in Marxism in the early 20th century, which was motivated by the fact that he was working in close connection with other Finnish left-wing intellectuals. On the other hand, Palmgren's moral views resembled in some respects bourgeois moral ideas, the objects of his criticism. His views were at some points analogous to conservative arguments popular in the bourgeois cultural circles in the early 20th century.

Bio: Alpo Väkevä is a PhD Student in Aesthetics at the University of Helsinki. His PhD will examine aesthetics of Raoul Palmgren, a Finnish left-wing intellectual. Väkevä is also an information specialist in the Library of Labour Movement located in Helsinki and an editorial secretary in *Työväentutkimus Vuosikirja*, a periodical published by the institutions of labour movement heritage in Finland.

Mikko-Olavi Seppälä, University of Helsinki: *Struggle for Migrant Working-Class Culture – Creating Theatre by/for Finnish labour in Sweden, from 1950s to 1990s*

Bio: Mikko-Olavi Seppälä has done extensive research on the history of the Finnish workers' theatres from the late 19th century through the 20th century. He works as university lecturer at the University of Helsinki. At the moment, Seppälä is doing research on the cultural activity of the Finnish migrants in Sweden during the second half of the 20th century.

J6: Security Police, Surveillance and the Labour Movement

This session addresses how the security police monitored domestic political activity in the Nordic countries. In Sweden and Finland, many threats to national security were seen connected to the labour movement. The aim of this session is to discuss and compare the surveillance methods used by security police against politically active people. We are especially interested in the use of informers, which offers an intriguing perspective for a critical analysis of the mechanisms of control.

Besides being targets of denunciation and under political surveillance, workers were also informers. They used denunciations as a means to advance their financial interests or to retaliate against their employers, property owners or state officials. This session covers the last decades of the Russian rule in Finland, Sweden between 1885 and 1922, and the Continuation War in Finland in the 1940s.

Sami Suodenjoki, Tampere University: *Political informing as class struggle? Workers and the practice of denunciation in Finland in the late imperial era, 1899-1917*

Bio: Sami Suodenjoki works as a senior researcher in the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences (HEX) at Tampere University. In his current research, he investigates the experiential basis of political mobilisations in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Finland and deals with nation, empire and class as lived experiences. Suodenjoki is a co-editor of the anthology *Lived Nation as the History of Experiences and Emotions in Finland, 1800–2000* (Palgrave, 2021). His recent publications address popular songs as shapers of the experiences of revolution and the nation, the practice of denunciation in Finland during the late imperial era, and the surveillance and disciplining of workers. He has also studied the democratization of local self-government in the Finnish countryside. Suodenjoki is the chair of the Finnish Society for Labour History.

Ville Okkonen and Dr. Tiina Lintunen, University of Turku: *Socialists under surveillance in the wartime 1941-1944*

Bio: Tiina Lintunen holds a Doctor of Social Sciences in the field of Contemporary History. She got her degree in 2015. Her main research interests include the Finnish civil war, war propaganda and the function and methods of a State Police. Currently, she works as a university lecturer at the Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science at the University of Turku, Finland. tiina.lintunen@utu.fi

Bio: Ville Okkonen holds a Doctor of Social Science in the field of Contemporary History and defended his thesis in 2017. His research interest include the political history of Finland, especially the legal history of the political system, education, the welfare state and the interaction between basic rights and politics. Currently he works as a project researcher at the Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science at the University of Turku, Finland. vpokko@utu.fi

Nils Ivar Agøy, University of South-Eastern Norway: *The establishment of counterrevolutionary measures, directed against the Norwegian Labour movement, between the two world wars*

The paper investigates how the radicalisation of the Norwegian labour movement during World War I, and a serious Red Scare in 1918, triggered a spate of official or semi-official security measures. Suspected revolutionary organisations and individuals were put under surveillance, and a comprehensive system of secret military forces was gradually built up. At the same time, the weapons in military stores were rendered unusable to prevent them from being captured by the revolutionaries. The surveillance was often inept and largely ineffective, but the system of secret forces was maintained and developed up to the early 1930s, when it played a central role in coup plans made by Vidkun Quisling. When the Norwegian Labour Party assumed government power in 1935, the clandestine system became a liability for the military authorities and was gradually dismantled. It is argued that

it may have served to give the officer corps a sense of higher purpose, as defenders of the true nation, in times of grave adversity, when civilians did not see the Socialist threat.

Bio: Nils Ivar Agøy (b. 1959), nils.i.agoy@usn.no, is professor of history at the University of South-Eastern Norway. He has been involved in labour history studies since the 1980s, starting with research on Socialist anti-militarism. His 1994 doctoral dissertation investigated secret measures to combat «enemies within» in Scandinavia during the interwar period. In 2011, Agøy published a comprehensive book on the relationship between the labour movement and the church in Norway up to World War II, and is currently working on a second volume covering 1940 to c. 1960. He has also written about the links between Scandinavian welfare policies and Lutheranism.

Plenary Session Y1: Labour History for a Digital Age

In recent years, we have seen an upsurge in the availability of digital sources, such as newspapers, books and databases. More or less all historians use some digital tools when conducting and communicating research and in teaching. Some historians practice methods from the digital humanities more systematically, ranging from basic word clouds to advanced text mining. There is a vibrant discussion on how the digital humanities will change historical research, teaching and communication. This session invites contributions to that discussion with a special relevance to labour history, as well as examples of applications. How can digital sources and methods help to revitalize the field of labour history? Are there any particular potentials or pitfalls for labour historians to consider?

Jenny Jansson, Uppsala University: *Preserving online union activism: Experiences from the project DigiFacket*

Margit Bech Vilstrup, Arbejdermuseet & ABA (Denmark): *Conceptualizing the worker. How big data, SMURF and the longue durée can contribute to labour history*

In this presentation I will demonstrate the usefulness of methods of big data analysis and digitized sources when studying the changing meanings and uses of the concept of “the worker” over a period of more than 250 years.

Looking at the “longue durée” of a key concept such as “the worker” will help provide a greater understanding of the strategies and effects of the Social Democratic parties and labor movements during the process of modernization and post-modernization.

A use of the so called "quantitative" or "digital turn" in history research can also help avoid what the two historians David Armitage and Jo Guldi has described as "a crisis of short-

termism" characterized by a fragmented, introverted history tradition with a focus on microhistorical studies and highly specialized topics and with an inability to think long-term and synthesize. (The History Manifesto, 2014)

I will discuss Armitage and Guldis argument that new digitized analysis tools and the ever-increasing amount of digitized source material can act as "macroscopes" offering a window to long-term change, based on quantitative analysis of words in their context.

And I will give examples from my work with the concept of "the worker", where I have used the Danish national platform Mediestream and its analytical tool SMURF.

Bio: Margit Bech Vilstrup, Ph.d., curator and researcher at Arbejdermuseet & ABA. I am currently working on Arbejdermuseets upcoming exhibition "Vi er arbejderne", in which we tell the story of the creation and development of the working class in Denmark from 1870-1945. mbv@arbejdermuseet.dk

Recent publications:

"Kampen om arbejderne", SFAH, 2019 (based on my Ph.d.-thesis "The Struggle for the Workers – political conceptualizations of 'the worker' 1750-2017")

"The Worker - Mobilized by the New Left and the Ultra-Liberal Right to Challenge the Social Democratic Welfare State", s. 67-88, In: J. Køber, Niklas Olsen, Heidi Jønsson (eds.): *Citizen Categories in the Danish Welfare State. From the Founding Epoch to the Neoliberal Era*, Syddansk Universitetsforlag, 2021

Peter Håkansson, Malmö University, and Tobias Karlsson, Lund University, and Matti La Mela, Uppsala University: *Running Out of Time: Using Job Ads to Analyse the Demand for Messengers in the 20th Century*

Over time, many jobs have disappeared due to technological, structural, and institutional changes. Some jobs have left rich archival traces, others are more elusive since they are transient for their holders and lack formal organisations. In this paper, we investigate messengers – a family of related occupational titles including errand and office boys. We sketch the long-term development of the occupation by making use of digitised Swedish daily newspapers. We study demand-side, supply-side and institutional factors for the disappearance of the occupation. Our investigation suggests that the messenger jobs reached their peak around 1945, and thereafter decreased to low levels in the 1960s. We find that employers looking for messengers were large organisations who needed inhouse help with deliveries and simple office tasks. These employers originally aimed for young men aged 15–17 years. The minimum age requirement was not loosened over time; instead, employers began to announce for older workers. We interpret this as adapting to a situation where the supply of young messengers had decreased, but the demand for messengers' services remained. Employers made their ads appealing by emphasising good working conditions and career prospects, which indicates that there was still a demand for messengers despite the changing times.

Bios: Peter Gladoić Håkansson is an Associate Professor in economic history at the Department of Society, Culture and Identity (Malmö University, Sweden).

Tobias Karlsson is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economic History (University of Lund, Sweden).

Matti La Mela is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities at the Department of ALM and a visiting researcher at the Department of Business Studies (Uppsala University, Sweden). matti.lamela@abm.uu.se.

Donald Weber, Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis: *The Social History Portal*

In this presentation – somewhat different from the other contributions – we will be demonstrating some of the opportunities and challenges of the Social History Portal and several digital strategies involved.

The Social History Portal (<https://socialhistoryportal.org>) holds a collective catalogue of the collections of 22 member institutions of the IALHI-International Association of Labour History Institutions, comprising over two million metadata records, each linking to the original catalogues which often contain digitized sources.

We will discuss two methods of getting your institution's catalogue records to the portal. The first is partly manual, exporting your data in a structured XML file and sending it to the portal team which will then process it, e.g. data sets by the Marx Memorial Library (UK). The second aggregation method is fully automated, setting up an API with your records in JSON format which is then script-wise being harvested by the portal servers, e.g. data sets by the Swiss Social Archive.

Then we will talk about a number of digital strategies which have the potential of enlarging and enriching social history research, such as full text search, IIF, Linked Open Data, Face Recognition and Handwritten Text Recognition. Given the short time of the presentation we will be focusing on IIF implementations of text documents and audio recordings. As these strategies have not yet been implemented in the SHP we will be using cases of Amsab-Institute of Social History.

Finally, we will present some of the methodological thresholds and challenges involved as food for further discussion.

Bio: Donald Weber (°1967), research director at Amsab-Institute of Social History, Ghent, Belgium. Holds a PhD in history from Ghent University on the emergence of motorized traffic in Belgium, 1895-1940. Has authored books and articles on diverse topics in social history, such as the history of criminal law, anti-globalist activism, the transport industry, cyclist movements, dock workers etc. Board member of several international networks such as IALHI-International Association of Labour History Institutions and ELHN-European Labour History Network. Member of the Ghent University Research Unit Social History After 1750. donald.weber@amsab.be

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/nl/donald.weber>

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