



XV NLHC
Copenhagen
2022

Labouring Lives and Political Protest
Across and Beyond the Nordic Countries

Session details and NLHC history

NLHC HISTORY

Nordic labour history conferences have been organized by the labour history institutes of the Nordic countries since 1974. The last conference took place in **Reykjavík, Iceland, in 2016** and the participation and variety of sessions and papers illustrated the renewed interest in labour history in the Nordic countries.

The Iceland conference led to the founding of **Nordic Labour History Network** and a more systematic cross-nordic cooperation, showing that the field is vivid and growing. During the years 2020-2021, this network organized a long list of online events: panels, lectures and workshops from various corners of the expanding field of labour history across and beyond the Nordic countries.

The XV NLHC was supposed to have taken place in November 2020 but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The new dates – **26-30 January 2022** – ended up colliding with yet another wave in the pandemic. Postponing again seemed impossible since the new dates had already caused several people to cancel their presentations because of collisions with other obligations and life circumstances.

Instead, the **organizing team** – which had by then diminished from five to three people due to exactly changed obligations and life circumstances – decided to do what we had wanted to avoid with postponing in the first place: **To go hybrid**.

The title of the XV NLHC – **Labouring Lives and Political Protest Across and Beyond the Nordic Countries** – is meant to encourage the ongoing expansion of approaches by pointing to the specificities of labour as such, of labour organizing, of workers' associations and parties, of collective bargaining practices and traditions, of the lived lives of workers, of convergences of and segregations between workplace and home, labour and free time, of various forms of political protest, activism and dissidence, as well as the spatial and temporal geographies of labour within, but not limited to a Nordic context.

Labour and workers travel beyond sectoral and national borders and thus labour history inquiries must travel too. Now we must also **travel between physical and virtual spaces** – and we hope you will all help make this possible.

ARBETAR FILMFESTIVALEN

NORDIC LABOUR FILM FESTIVAL

Nordic Labor Film Festival (nlff.se) was started May 6-7, 2017, by the film collective RåFILM, Malmö, in collaboration with ABF (the Worker's Educational Association), and the trade unions Byggnads Skåne and Elektrikerförbundet, and the cinema Folkets Bio Panora.

With the XV Nordic Labour History Conference the NLFF is coming to Copenhagen for the first time. The films screened during the conference is a selection of submissions for the conference from labour history researchers working with the film media, and films selected by the team behind NLFF in 2021.

Talat Bhat from RåFILM/NLFF will be introducing the film program of the conference and the labour film makers who are joining us.

KEYNOTES

Eileen Boris: Engendering ILO History: From the World Employment Programme to the Future of Work, 1969-2019

“I like to joke that I have only two topics, home and work, and they are the same.”

Eileen Boris is a Hull Professor and Graduate Director at Feminist Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara, and former president of International Federation for Research in Women's History.

Among her latest books are:

Engendering Transnational Transgressions: From the Intimate to the Global. Edited by Eileen Boris, Sandra Trudgen Dawson, and Barbara Molony. Routledge, 2021.

Making the Woman Worker: Precarious Labor and the Fight for Global Standards, 1919-2019. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Women's ILO: Transnational Networks, Global Standards, and Gender Equity. Edited by Eileen Boris, Dorothea Hoeltker and Susan Zimmermann. Brill and ILO, 2018.

Donatella Della Porta: Political protest, social movements, and the politics of collective memory

“I have done research on the good and bad sides of politics (and democracy), using qualitative and quantitative methods.”

Donatella della Porta is Professor of Sociology, Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Science, and Director of Centre of Social Movements Studies at Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze.

Among her latest books are:

Contesting Higher Education. Student Movements against Neoliberal Universities, with L. Cini and C. Guzmán-Concha. Bristol University Press, 2020.

Social Movements. An Introduction (3rd Ed.), with M. Diani. Blackwell, 2020.

How Social Movements Can Save Democracy. Democratic Innovations from Below. Polity Press, 2020.

Kevin Morgan: Peopling the transnational, transnationalising biography

“In all of my research I have had a particular interest in biographical and life-history methods.”

Kevin Morgan is Professor of Politics and History at University of Manchester and founding editor of *Twentieth Century Communism: a journal of twentieth century history*.

Among his most important books are:

International Communism and the Cult of the Individual. Leaders, Tribunes and Martyrs under Lenin and Stalin. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Bolshevism, Syndicalism and the General Strike. The Lost Internationalist World of A. A. Purcell. Lawrence & Wishart, 2013.

Communists and British Society 1920-1991, with G. Cohen and A. Flinn. Rivers Oram Press, 2007.

SESSION DETAILS

A1: Citizenship, Labour, and Gender

Samita Sen, University of Cambridge: *Women Leaders, Labour Movements and Electoral Politics: India in Transition, 1940–1960* [ONLINE](#)

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*

Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir, University of Iceland: *Votes for the poor. The intersection of suffrage and poor law in Iceland 1916–1934* [ONLINE](#)

Discussant and chair: Drude Dahlerup, Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Stockholm University and Honorary Professor at Roskilde University

A3: Gendering industry

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

Katri Karkinen, independent (Finland): *Looking for recognition for early dairy maids* [ONLINE](#)

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* [ONLINE](#)

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

Discussant and chair: Lars Berggren, emeritus, Centrum för Arbetarhistoria, Lund University

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* [ONLINE](#)

Iris Olavinen, The Finnish Labour Archives: *Empowering women - the informal meetings and activism of trade union women leaders in 1988 - 1992* [ONLINE](#)

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

Discussant and chair: Silke Neunsinger, ARAB

A5: Women organizing political and social movements

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

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

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

Discussant: Mats Wickström, Forskardoktor, Åbo Akademi [ONLINE](#)
Chair: Jonas Söderqvist, ARAB

B1: Precarity and forms of labour I

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

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

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* **ONLINE**

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

Discussant and chair: Marlene Spanger, Aalborg University

B2: Precarity and forms of labour 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.*

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* **ONLINE**

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

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

Discussant and chair: Marlene Spanger, Aalborg University

B3: Precarity, industry and the state

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

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

Discussant and chair: Marlene Spanger, Aalborg University

C1: Experiences at the nexus of punishment and labour

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*

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

Discussant and chair: Johan Heinsen, Aalborg University

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

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*

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

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

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

Discussant and chair: Matthias van Rossum, International Institute of Social History

C3: Capitalism, colonialism, and coercion

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

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

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

Discussant and chair: Vilhelm Vilhelmsson, University of Iceland Centre for Research in Northwest Iceland

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* [ONLINE](#)

Pontus Järvstad, University of Iceland: *The Many Conceptualizations of Anti-fascism: Historiographical Considerations for the Developing Field of Nordic Anti-fascist Studies* [ONLINE](#)

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.*

Discussant: Johan A. Lundin, Malmö University [ONLINE](#)

Chair: TBC

E1: Nordic Communist Activists

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

Liisa Lalu, University of Turku: *'Home again. The battle season is ahead.'*
The diary of a young radical communist woman [ONLINE](#)

Discussant: Ole Martin Rønning, ARBARK, Norge

Chair: Yulia Gradskova, Mid Sweden University

E2: Communism as Ideal and Reality in a Gendered Perspective

Silja Pitkänen, University of Jyväskylä: *Children in Soviet Propaganda Photographs in the 1930s* [ONLINE](#)

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

Heidi Kurvinen, University of Turku: *Portrayal of Soviet women in the Finnish print media of the 1960s and 1970s* [ONLINE](#)

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*

Discussant: Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir, University of Iceland [ONLINE](#)

Chair: Ole Martin Rønning, ARBARK

E3: Transnational Lives and Movements

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

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

Discussant: Kim Frederichsen, independent researcher (Denmark) [ONLINE](#)

Chair: TBC

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* [ONLINE](#)

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* [ONLINE](#)

Discussant: Mats Wickström, Forskardoktor, Åbo Akademi [ONLINE](#)

Chair: Jonas Söderqvist, ARAB

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*

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

Discussant and chair: Yulia Gradska, Mid Sweden University

G1: The establishment of the system of collective bargaining

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

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

Hannes Rolf, Uppsala University: *Organized Interests, Power, and Rent*
[ONLINE](#)

Discussant and chair: Lars Berggren, emeritus, Centrum för Arbetarhistoria, Lund University

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* [ONLINE](#)

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

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

Discussant and chair: Knud Knudsen, prev. Aalborg University

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* [ONLINE](#)

Magnus Olofsson, Lund University: *Contested streets. Marching and demonstrating in Stockholm, 1887-1920* [ONLINE](#)

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

Discussant and chair: Flemming Mikkelsen, prev. University of Copenhagen

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* [ONLINE](#)

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

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

Discussant and chair: Jenny Jansson, Uppsala University

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*

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

Lasse Lindekilde, Aarhus University: *For the Climate... and Me: Weighing Common and Personal Interests in the Fight against Climate Change* [ONLINE](#)

Discussant and chair: Sune Haugbølle, Roskilde University

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

Stefan Backius, Karlstad University: *Deindustrialization and rural community activism in 1980's* [ONLINE](#)

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* [ONLINE](#)

Discussant and chair: Jenny Jansson, Uppsala University

Special 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*

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

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

Jussi Lahtinen, Tampere University: *Finnish working-class authors of the 1970s: Dissidents of the Grand Modernization* [ONLINE](#)

Discussant and chair: Magnus Gustafson, Malmö University

Special 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*

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

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

Discussant and chair: Lisbeth Gundlund Jensen, Member of the Nexø Foundation Board (Denmark)

Special session J6:

Security Police, Surveillance and the Labour Movement

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

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

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

Discussant: Kimmo Rentola, University of Helsinki **ONLINE**

Chair: Andrés Brink Pinto

Plenary session Y1: Labour History for a Digital Age

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*

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

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

Discussant: Helle Strandgaard Jensen, Aarhus Universitet **ONLINE**
Chair: Tobias Karlsson, Lund University, Sweden

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS

OF PRESENTERS ONLINE:

www.nordiclabourhistory.org

WIFI: Arbejdermuseet Gæst
Password: **Stauning**

TRACK DESCRIPTIONS (from the original CfP)

A: Feminist Labour History in the Nordic countries and beyond

Since the turn of the millennium, we have experienced a new upswing in feminist labour history. During the last NHLN conference in Reykjavik in 2016 this was illustrated by a large number of panels on the subject. We want to invite you to continue the discussions started in Reykjavik, to challenge earlier perspectives and assumptions and to develop our knowledge about feminist labour history through discussion about empirical findings, theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches and the expansion of the field in space and time. We welcome contributions addressing amongst others the discussions on:

- the intersection of class, race, gender, global inequality, etc. in all thematic areas of labour history
- the global gendered division of labour
- sexual harassment at work
- the historical engendering of various types and forms of labour
- the historical evolution of the relationship between paid and unpaid or subsistence-oriented work
- commodification and de-commodification of domestic and care work
- how gender has impacted labour law and practice and vice versa, i.e. how labour law has shaped gender relations
- trade unions and gender locally, nationally, transnationally and internationally
- queer history and the labour movement
- the meaning of gender in times of economic or political crises, during revolutions and strikes
- labour women leaders - the known and unknown socialist feminists
- sisterhood and socialist feminists - with women or men to struggle for women's rights
- feminism in labour culture (literature, music, art)
- gender, work and fascism/antifascism

B: Precarious Work Historicized

"Precarious work" is a topical issue in contemporary political and academic debate. Even though precarious work is closely related to changes in the organization of production and work in recent decades, it is an old phenomenon as well. In this track we aim to historicize and interrogate the concept of precarious work and to invite papers that investigate precarization processes – and workers' responses to these processes – at work places (urban and rural) as well as in relation to for instance self-employment, home-based work and industrial outwork, BPO industry, platform work etc.

The focus is on the Nordic countries, but also beyond, as the world of labor is obviously connected. We encourage proposals of sessions and papers that engage with theoretical understandings of precarization and precarious work, as well as with specific empirical studies of such processes and forms of labor and labor organizing. We also welcome studies on the role of social partners, governments, institutions and associations, including their responses and strategies relating to precarious work and precarization processes.

C: Free/Unfree Labour

As labour historians are increasingly looking beyond wage labour, the question of the interaction between, and fluidity of, "free" and "unfree" labour is becoming still more prevalent. This track explores the elements of coercion in a host of different labour relations (slavery, convict labour, tributary labour, wage labour, etc.) in the Nordic countries and beyond.

Topics may include: coerced labour in colonial, military or rural contexts; the welfare state and coercion; gender and unfree labour; and the lived experiences of coercion, including processes of solidarity and conflict among or between workers in different categories of labour. We welcome proposals on all historical periods.

D: History of Fascism/Anti-Fascism

Ever since the emergence of fascism on the political scene in Europe after World War I, the Left has coped with fascists seeking to challenge the socialist labour movement. This is also true for the Nordic countries where local fascist movements as well as the political development in other countries have been the cause of anti-fascist mobilisation from the 1920's and beyond. This has taken on many forms from opinion building, legal action, and social reform to solidarity work, mass mobilisation, and militant activism.

With the reoccurrence of right-wing ultra-nationalism the past years, the history of fascism and anti-fascism is becoming still more actual and has gained renewed interest among scholars of political mobilisation. The track explores the many facets of this research field with topics such as fascist movements from Mussolini to right-wing populism; fascism as workers' movements; anti-fascist strategies from legalism to militancy; solidarity work, internationalism and transnational connections; fascist and anti-fascist culture and propaganda; gender and masculinity in fascist and anti-fascist activism.

E: Communist Lives

Since the days of the Cold War, communist studies have moved beyond the original concepts of totalitarianism and organizational structures. Our session aims to explore further the contemporary trend of biographical research, while integrating a perspective that puts rank-and-file communists into focus. Exploring communist lives challenges common dichotomies in the historiography by showing the fluidity of concepts such as belief/dissent, work/leisure, trust/distrust, conflict/peace, center/periphery, public/private, official/unofficial, integration/sectarianism, and can enhance our conception of for instance gender roles, education, space and time, mobility, loyalty, generations, emotions, experiences, and ideology.

This track puts the spotlight on communist individuals, couples, and groups. Using communist lives as a lens, topics may cover anything from everyday strategies to political struggles in the ideological context of communism. We also invite papers with a focus on the methodological innovations and challenges (for instance archival structures as such, letters, diaries, memoirs/autobiographies, oral history, prosopography and digital humanities) that arise when dealing with communist lives.

F: Histories of Migrant, and Entrepreneurial Labour

Migration studies are often dominated by contemporary perspectives, whereas labor studies tend to overlook migration and migrant experiences. When migration is treated in Nordic labor

history it is often framed as a challenge and migrants become the external other.

In this track we focus on the histories of migrant and other forms of itinerant labor in the Nordic countries and beyond – cross-border as well as within national territories – including histories of migrant labor (self)organizing, labor migration routes, trade union responses to migrant labor, recruitment practices of migrant labor to and between the Nordic countries, workers' parties policies and strategies in relation to migration, individual and collective labor migrant experiences and -accounts.

We invite proposals that draw on all kinds of source materials, including oral history, institutional and private archives, photos, policy documents, parliamentary and public debates; work-place and company specific histories etc., and all forms of labor: urban and rural; formal and informal; labor within manufacturing, service, domestic and other sectors; workplace labor, home-based labor and labor on the move. We encourage specific empirical studies as well as studies that address how histories of migrant and itinerant labor – theoretically and methodologically – can be accounted for.

G: History of Collective Bargaining

In the early 20th century, agreements between national employers' associations and trade union federations were concluded in the different Nordic countries. Following conflicts in the labour market, the September Agreement was signed in Denmark 1899, the December Compromise was agreed upon in Sweden 1906 and the Manufacturing industry agreement (Verkstedsoverenskomsten) signed in Norway in 1907. However, strikes and lockouts were still frequent during the following decades. In the 1930s and 1940s, labour market agreements regulating industrial relations were signed in most Nordic countries. Negotiation rather than legislation has been known as a characteristic of the Nordic Model.

One interesting research question is, however, to what extent labour market conflicts have in practice been resolved through negotiations or legislation. Since particularly the 1990s deregulation, digitalisation and outsourcing has led to new forms of employment and labour market relations. In what ways have these changes affected industrial relations and collective bargaining?

This track explores patterns of collective bargaining and mediation among white- and blue-collar workers within different trades in the period 1900–2010. Papers on how trade unions have handled issues concerning gender equality, precarious work, free/unfree labour, migrant and itinerant labour are also very welcome.

H: Political Activism Post 1945

Political engagement has changed. Significant fewer people are today members of political parties than 50-60 years ago. However, the decline in party membership can't necessarily be seen as an expression of declining political commitment, but rather as a diversification of forms of political participation, expressions and practices and an attraction to different kinds of political activism, ranging from "liking" political Facebook pages, voluntary grassroots work and peaceful demonstrations to the practice of political violence. The track is part of an ongoing project on Danish left wing activism in a historical and comparative perspective by the Workers' Museum and Aarhus University, and invites panels, sessions and individual papers exploring actors' motivation for engaging in political contestation across and beyond the Nordic countries, including topics such as alternative political strategies and communication forms, conceptions and practices of democracy, social dynamics in social movements (international solidarity, anti-war, environmental etc.), and personal narratives/memories as sources to the study of political activism.