

# International Conference: Transnational Labour Rights Activism across Asia and Beyond

Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr-University Bochum (Germany)

17/18 September 2015

## 16.09. Wednesday

*Arrival*

18:00 *Evening dinner*

## 17.09. Thursday

8:45 *arrival, coffee and tea*

### **9:00-9:30 Welcome and opening remarks by the organizers**

**Christoph Seidel**, Ruhr-University of Bochum/ Germany: The institute for Social Movements at the heart of workers movement at the Ruhr-Area.

### **9:30-11:30 Transnational labour rights activism and globalisation: theoretical approaches and empirical challenges**

**Ludger Pries**, Ruhr-University Bochum/ Germany and **Martin Seeliger**, Max Planck Institute for the Studies of Societies, Cologne/ Germany: Work and employment relations in a globalized world: The emerging texture of transnational labour regulation

**Chun Yi Lee**, University of Nottingham/ UK: The Missing Link of Global Value Chain

**Saida Ressel**, Ruhr-University Bochum/ Germany: contested attribution of responsibilities to state and private actors: using an actor-attribution analysis

Comments: Sigrid Quack, University Duisburg-Essen/ Germany

*Break*

### **12:00-13:30 Conceptualizing the implementation/enforcement of transnational labour rights**

**Jeroen Merk**, London School of Economics/ UK: Supply chain policing versus worker discontent: applying concepts developed by Jacques Rancière to transnational private governance mechanisms in global production networks

**Conor Cradden**, University of Lausanne/ Switzerland: What do free workers look like? Towards a common understanding of the application of freedom of association and collective bargaining rights

Comment: Cornelia Ulbert, University-Duisburg-Essen/ Germany

13:30-14:30 *Lunch*

### **14:30 - 16:30 Migrant labour and women's rights**

**Nicola Piper**, University of Sydney/Australia: Advancing the rights of women workers in the Global South: ILO at the crossroads of labour, women's and migrant's rights

**Olive Pye**, University of Bonn/ Germany: Transnational space and workers' struggles. Reshaping the palm oil industry in Malaysia

**Verna Dinah Q. Viajar**, University of Kassel/ Germany: Examining labor organizing strategies of migrant domestic workers in Malaysia: Limits of empowerment struggles and dynamic tensions between trade unions and NGOs

Comments: Kyoko Shinozaki, Ruhr-University of Bochum/ Germany

*Break*

16:45-17:45 **Tim Bartley**, Ohio State University/USA (via skype):

Beyond Methodological Nationalism? Global Value Chains, Rule Overlap, and Labor Rights in Indonesia and China

Comments: Manfred Wannöffel, Ruhr-University of Bochum/ Germany

19:00 *Dinner*

## **18.09. Friday**

*8:45 coffee and tea*

### **09:00 - 10:30 Labor rights activism in non-democratic contexts the cases of China and Vietnam**

**Stefan Schmalz**, University of Jena/ Germany and **Hui Xu**, Global Labour University/Germany: Labor NGOs in the Pearl River Delta: Towards A Chinese Social Movement Unionism?

**Do Quynh Chi**, Research Center for Employment Relations Hanoi/ Vietnam: Labour Activism in Vietnam: Trends from 2005 to 2015

Comments: Stefan Berger, Ruhr-University Bochum/ Germany

*Break*

### **10:45-12:15 Forced labour and its counter mobilization**

**Matthew Mullen**, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University/ Thailand: Forced labour in the Thai Seafood industry and its fragmented counter mobilization

**Gale Raj-Reichert**, University of Manchester/ UK: Uncovering forced labour in the electronics industry in Malaysia

Comment: Nicole Helmerich, Hertie-School of Governance, Berlin/ Germany

*12:15-13:00 Lunch*

**13:00- 14:30 Global campaigns hitting the ground: the Play Fair Campaign in Indonesia**

**Niklas Egels-Zandén**, University of Gothenburg/ Sweden: CSR beyond Imperialism: Transnational labor activism in the Indonesian Play Fair negotiations

**Felix Hauf**, University of Frankfurt/ Germany: Problematizing the Role of NGOs in Transnational Labour Rights Campaigns: The Case of Play Fair in Indonesia

Comments: Uwe Hoering, Asia House, Cologne/ Germany

*Break*

**14:45- 16:45 The Bangladesh Accord and its impact on transnational activism**

**Frauke Banse**, University of Kassel/ Germany: The Bangladesh Accord as a model to solve other labour rights violations in global supply chains?

**Christa Wichterich/ Raisul Islam Khan** University of Kassel/ Germany: Safety and Labour Conditions in the Readymade Garment Industry of Bangladesh. The Implementation of the Accord and the National Tripartite Plan of Action.

**Sabrina Zajak**, Ruhr-University Bochum/ Germany: Institutional layering and the changing power of workers in Bangladesh

Comments: Eva Gerharz, Ruhr-University Bochum/ Germany

*Break*

**17:00- 18:30 Transnational Dimensions of Labour Activism in Cambodia**

**David Cichon**, Trinity College Dublin/ Ireland: Financialisation and Labour Activism across the Global Garment Industry (Cambodia)

**Michaela Doutch**, University of Bonn/ Germany: Cambodian garment workers and their struggles in a transnational context: labor agency (potential) and transnational campaigns

Comments: Christian Scheper, University-Duisburg Essen/ Germany

**18:30- 19:00 Discussion of the publication**

*19:30 Dinner and evening program*

*We greatly thank the German Research Foundation (DFG), the MERCATOR Foundation and the Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation for their support.*