

Jagiellonian School
of History and Culture

MODERN HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY OF WORK

SUMMER SCHOOL

27 August–2 September 2023

Jagiellonian University
Cracow, Poland


FACULTY OF HISTORY
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW

 **RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY**
EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE



Department of History,
Jagiellonian University is
pleased to announce **the
2023 Summer School
Modern History and
Anthropology of Work**
which will take place on **27
August–2 September 2023**
at Jagiellonian University in
Cracow, Poland.

Labour is an important social, political and cultural topic, linking issues of contemporary relevance such as inequality, migration and exploitation of the natural environment.

The dominant view in the public sphere is that work has changed significantly over the last two centuries: from being a commodity manufacturing activity to one that produces intangible objects, from being dominated by industrial work to being a service activity, and these processes have been accompanied by the precarization of work. Work is transforming, however, in a much less linear way: immaterial labour is not replacing industrial labour – combinations of both practices were present and exist in both past and present workplaces; the deindustrialization of different regions of the globe coincides with the industrialization of others, while the precarization of labour in the West and in post-socialist countries has drawn attention to the precariousness of labour in other regions. The proliferation of digital technologies and the expansion of transnational production networks are changing work around the world, but the effects of this vary in different parts of the globe. Alongside these processes, we observe different forms of the (in)visibility of work, which provoke questions about the bodily dimension of work, its social consequences, the actors involved, the gender segregation and the transformation of the environment, among others. The summer school is intended to bring together scholars working in the field of history and anthropology of work to exchange experiences of research work, establish scholarly contacts and together confront questions of comparative studies in the field.

The focus of the school is on issues specific to the social and cultural history and anthropology of work: leisure, workplaces, working environments, skills and technologies, labour policies, labour economies, mobility and work, representations of work, and cultures of work. In addition, it seems worthwhile to compare the already mentioned processes of the deindustrialization and precarization of work in different regions of the world and their complex relationship with concurrent economic and political changes, for example the relationship between the deindustrialization and the precarization of work and the economic and political transformation that has taken place in the countries of Southern, Central and Eastern Europe.



Also central to the research is the link between bodies and work, as the interaction between workers and the environment not only produces commodities, but also shapes the bodies and identities of workers along with their physical, social and cultural capacities. Bodies at work are most often considered in terms of recognition, agency, inequality, gender and bodily adaptation to the work environment (noise, smell, dust, body position). Adding that the work environment (including the working body) is an ecological environment, it is therefore important to study work as a practice that conditions and co-shapes the natural environment. This assumption directs attention to issues such as the causality of non-human actors (animals, plants, landscape), changes in nature, and the resilience of socio-natural systems.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Five lecturers and twelve students will participate in the school. The participants will work with the distinguished scholars in seminars. Each lecturer additionally offers a lecture and a reading class which will be attended by the entire group. Lecturers will also hold office hours (individual meetings with students, to which students will enrol before the school starts).

The Department of History, JU will cover the participants' accommodation (6 nights), meals (breakfast, receptions, lunches, dinners), and an excursion. The organizers will not cover travel expenses. The tuition fee is €250.



HOW TO APPLY

We invite MA and PhD students from all disciplines researching modern history and anthropology of work. Those interested in participating in the conference are asked to send their CVs, outlines of their MA/PhD thesis (2,000 words), and abstracts (500 words) of their presentations in docx or pdf format to magdalena.bubik@uj.edu.pl, by 28 February 2023.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Hours	27 August	28 August	29 August	30 August	31 August	1 September	2 September
9:00–11:15	Arrival (Get to know)	Lecture / reading class	Lecture / reading class	Tour at Cracow's Industrial Heritage Sites (foundry at Nowa Huta)	Lecture / reading class	Lecture / reading class	Departure
11:15–11:30		Coffee	Coffee		Coffee	Coffee	
11:30–13:45		Students Seminar	Students Seminar		Students Seminar	Students Seminar	
13:45–15:15		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
15:15–17:30		Lecturer office hours	Lecturer office hours	Lecturer office hours	Lecturer office hours	Lecturer office hours	
17:45–20:00		Free afternoon	Lecture / reading class	Free afternoon	Free afternoon	Free afternoon	
20:00	Welcome Dinner & Registration	Common dinner	Common dinner	Common dinner	Common dinner	Farewell reception	

LECTURERS



**MALGORZATA
FIDELIS**

is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History, University of Illinois, Chicago. Her research focuses on social and cultural issues, particularly everyday life and the relationship between individuals and state power in post-1945 Poland. Her articles appeared in the *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Slavic Review*, *Vingtième Siècle*, *Revue d'Histoire*, and *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* among others. Her first book titled *Women, Communism, and Industrialization in Postwar Poland* (Cambridge University Press, 2010; Polish-language edition, WAB, 2015) is a study of female workers and communist policies in Poland. The book's central theme explores how communist leaders and society reconciled pre-communist traditions with radically new norms imposed by the communist ideology. Her second book, *Imagining the World From Behind the Iron Curtain: Youth and the Global Sixties in Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2022), concerns the social and cultural history of the sixties in Poland with a particular emphasis on youth and student cultures in a transnational context.

is a Professor of Anthropology at Hofstra University. She is a cultural anthropologist who has done fieldwork in the Basque region of Spain and in the southern United States. In the Basque country, she studied the world-renowned Mondragon worker-owned cooperatives. Her book *The Myth of Mondragon* was the first full-length study to take a working-class perspective on the cooperative. It remains one of the most important works on the topic. She spent a year in the Spring Hill, Tennessee area to complete her study of the General Motors Saturn factory.

Her writing on Saturn examines how auto workers' lives are impacted by the constant threat of plant closure and the persistence of insecurity. She continues her research and writing on capitalism and working class lives and politics. Her recent co-edited volume *Blood & Fire* examines these issues and develops an agenda for the anthropology of labour.



**SHARRYN
KASMIR**



**KATHERINE
LEBOW**

is an Associate Professor of Modern History at Christ Church, Oxford University. She works on Polish and transnational history of the twentieth century, with particular interest in social and cultural, and, increasingly, intellectual history. Her first book was about a Stalin-era new town in Poland, focusing on the everyday politics of this model 'socialist city'. Her current research takes as its starting point a series of enormously popular memoir-writing competitions, organized by Polish sociologists between the two World Wars and targeting traditionally non-literate classes: workers, peasants, the unemployed, etc. Reading the memoirs in light of the global fascination with representations of 'everyman' ca. 1930–50, she asks how personal narratives (or testimony) have been used to promote and/or contest varying concepts of subjecthood, rights, justice, or truth at particular historical junctures. In other research, she remains interested in the history of Polish (particularly Polish-speaking) Jews and is involved in a collaborative project on the history of social science and East Central Europe.

holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge (2011). She has held post-doctoral positions at the University of Bologna (under a Marie Curie Intra-European fellowship) and at the University of Bucharest. For over 10 years she has been conducting research on migrant labour exploitation, with a focus on sex work and agricultural work, and on forms of resistance to migration and labour regimes, including through active participation in organizing and conducting struggles. She has carried out fieldwork in Nigeria, Italy and Romania. Since March 2017, Irene has been a post-doc researcher at ICS-ULisboa, in the team of the COLOUR project (The Colour of Labour: the racialized lives of migrants), led by Cristiana Bastos.



**IRENE
PEANO**



**NITIN
VARMA**

is a social historian with degrees from the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi). He holds a PHD from Humboldt University, Berlin having worked on the history of coolie labour in the colonial tea plantations of India. The thesis was later published as a monograph titled *Coolies of Capitalism* (Berlin, 2016). He is currently based at the International Centre for Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History (Re:Work), Humboldt University, Berlin. He has recently published a two volumed co-edited book (with Nitin Sinha) titled *Servants' Past* (Delhi, 2019) which included contributions on the history of domestic labour in South Asia from 16th century to the present. He is currently working on a project on labour and citizenship in postcolonial India.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

School days: August 27–September 2, 2023

Where: Department of History, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland

Attendance: on site

School level: Master's, PhD candidates from all disciplines

Confirmed lecturers: Malgorzata Fidelis (University of Illinois, Chicago), Sharryn Kasmir (Hofstra University), Katherine Lebow (Oxford University), and Irene Peano (Universidade de Lisboa), and Nitin Varma (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

Forms of tuition: on site, lectures, reading class, seminars

Applications deadline: 28 February 2023

Tuition fee: 250 €. The Department of History, JU will cover participants' accommodation (6 nights), meals (breakfast, receptions, lunches, dinners), and an excursion.

Organizers

The organizing committee is led by Jakub Muchowski (JU), Kamil Ruszała (JU), Magdalena Bubík (JU). The school is co-organized by [Lab]orans Research Group (JU) dedicated to the history and anthropology of work.



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