



The conference will represent an opportunity to re-emphasise from an interdisciplinary perspective the role of labour and workers' struggle in the production of global capitalism. The effects of current world economic crisis on employment and working conditions have put to the fore once again the role of workers in resisting, coping or finding alternative to a changed unfavourable context. Recent research streams from overlapping disciplines in the social sciences (from industrial relations and the sociology of work to social anthropology and from labour geography to social history and political economy) have given central relevance., according to the position workers have in capitalism, to the activities of people at work, the struggles they engage in and the organisational and political strategies they produce. However, dialogue between scholars concerned with labour is often made difficult by the different disciplines boundaries.

The conference, bringing together leading scholars from different disciplines within the social sciences, will thus aim to be an ideal meeting place and departure point for a range of studies concerned with the centrality of labour in explaining contemporary social processes.

In the field of industrial relations and the sociology of work, after decades in which non conflictual vision of work associated with HRM seemed to be the dominant pattern of work relations, researchers' attention is now shifting back to workers and labour with new studies concerned with issues of workers' organization, collective action, trade unionism, the labour process and workers' control. In the field of other overlapping disciplines, as with social anthropology, labour geography, social history and political economy, a focus on labour has been central to explain patterns of exploitation in the informal sector and of illegal immigrants in the global cities, to envisage strategies of resistance across space and society, to link labour unrests to historical patterns of capitalist development, to re-open the crucial debate about gendered unpaid work and social reproduction and overall to redefine the concepts of work and of the working class. The conference will be concerned consider.

Workers and Labour in a Globalised Capitalism Contemporary Themes and Theoretical Issues



Università degli Studi di Cagliari

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Cagliari 29-30 September 2011

Aula Magna Facoltà di Economia

Viale S. Ignazio, 74

Programme

29 september - 9.30 a.m.

Introduction/Welcome

Piera Loi, Director Centro Studi di Relazioni Industriali

Theoretical issues: explaining the centrality of labour within capitalism

Coordinates: **Maurizio Atzeni**

Antonella Picchio

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
The process of social reproduction, wages and unpaid work

Beverly Silver

John Hopkins University, New York
World System Analysis and Labour: transhistorical dimensions of workers' struggles

29 september - 3.30 p.m.

Classical Issues: explaining workers' resistance and organisation

Coordinates: **Piera Loi**

Sheila Cohen

University of Hertfordshire, UK
Workers' Organising, what are trade union for

Pablo Ghigliani

Universidad de La Plata, Argentina
Trade unions and the construction of workers' organisational power: democracy or bureaucracy?

Maurizio Atzeni

University of Cagliari and CEIL/Conicet, Buenos Aires
Workers Control and alternatives to capitalist work organisation

30 september - 9.30 a.m.

Contemporary Issues: workers' organising in the global world

Coordinates: **Maurizio Atzeni**

Massimiliano Mollona

Goldsmith College, London
Informal Sector's Workers

Immanuel Ness

Brooklyn College, City University New York
Migrants' and guest workers' Organising