

4th Labour Transfer School: establishing links between research and labour activism

Buggerru, Sardinia, Italy, 8th to 13th June 2025

The Labour Transfer School (LabourTransfer) is an independent, not for profit, international initiative of global labour scholars interested in collaborations, synergies and knowledge exchange between academia and social organizations, aiming at producing emancipatory knowledge on labour and social issues. LabourTransfer gives participants a chance to exchange their research interests with academics, labour activists, artists, journalists and trade unionists from all over the world. LabourTransfer is not a traditional academic summer school or a training centre for trade unionists but a networking place for labour activism and social justice

The learning objectives of LabourTransfer are threefold:

- 1) to provide a new and sui generis learning environment for labour activists and organisers and for postdoctoral, doctoral and master students specialising in labour studies from different disciplines.
- 2) to create a global network of students, scholars, institutions, unions, activists, artists and journalists committed to the advancing of knowledge about society and economy from a labour perspective.
- 3) to raise public awareness and debate on the centrality of labour within our societies

LabourTransfer is attracting growing enthusiasm and support in the international community of labour scholars and activists. We started in 2022 with a three-day event with 30 participants, to double this number in 2023 over a four-day school and have hosted 120 participants over five days in the third edition of the school in June 2024 (see programmes and pictures in our webpage; www.labourtransfer.org). This growth can be seen in the new themes and topics added every year to the school and in the support different university institutions and labour-oriented foundations have been granting us.

The following are the themes we are aiming to discuss this year, in both plenary and participants led workshop sessions: *work in the food and textile commodity chains; slave labour and anti-modern slavery campaigns; ecology, capitalism and the working class; workers' self-management and alternative local economies; activism and organization in the video games industry; social reproduction and decolonial/feminist methodologies; global/transnational trade unions action; logistics/Amazon; Labour conflict and organization, Labour law and activism, Health at work and labour activism, Gramsci's*



Meridionalism and the Global South; Art and labour; Investigative Labour Journalism; Global labour History; Workers' co-research

Confirmed speakers for this year's edition include: Mark Anner, Rutgers University; Jamie Woodcock, King's College; Alessandra Mezzadri, SOAS; Dario Azzellini, ILR School, Cornell University; Eleanor Kirk, Glasgow University, Maurizio Atzeni, Universidad Alberto Hurtado and CEIL CONICET, Argentina; Patrick Neveling, Bournemouth University, Stefano Bellucci, International Institute of Social History, Francesca Congiu and Piera Loi University of Cagliari; Henrique Tahan Novaes, Unesp Marilia; Julia Soul, Ceil Conicet; Fausto Durante, CGIL Sarda; Pablo Jimenez and Jonas Seifert free lance journalists; Peter Thomas, Brunel University; Katja Praznick, University at Buffalo; Paolo Marinaro, Solidarity Centre Mexico; Romin Khan, Ver.di Germany; Vera Wegmann, PSI global union and Greenwich University, UK; Bujumannu (Simone Pireddu), reggae musician and land artist from Sardinia; Stephen Bouquin, Universite' Paris Saclay

The idea of the school is that of conjugating knowledge exchange, research and relax. Buggerru, where the school is located, is a small lovely place by the sea in Sardinia. However, Buggerru is also symbolically important for labour history. It was a mining city where workers organised a boycott to demand better working conditions. In response, the army was sent in and three workers were killed while many others injured. That Sunday 4 September 1904 is still remembered today because The Buggerru Massacre sparked the first general strike of Italian history.

Application

We are aiming this year to select about seventy activists and students. Selection will be on the basis of a letter of motivation and a CV. Please also include a short bio and a sentence or two on your current research work and/or political activism for labour in your application. We would publish these in the programme of speakers and participants and also for structuring some of the afternoons at the school. In order to submit your application please fill the form you can find on our website, link here: <https://sites.google.com/view/labourtransferschool/whats-labour-transfer>

Applications will be open until the 15th of December 2024. Selected participants will be notified of their acceptance to the school by the 22nd of December 2024. For further information please send email to: labourtransferschool@gmail.com

Registration and Costs

LabourTransfer is self-financed and the fees we collect are meant to cover living costs: hotel accommodation (5 nights); meals (for the duration of the school); transfer from Cagliari to Buggerru; extra local activities (mine visit, boat trip).



We have a fee structure on two layers:

- **Basic fee:** participants without or with very limited institutional support – 450 (shared room of 4); 550 Euros (double or triple room); 810 (single room)
- **Institutional fee:** participants with institutional support - 750 Euros (double or triple room); 985 (single room)

These fees are for participants paying by the 20th of January (Early bird) to allow room reservation on time. Late payments will increase by 20%. The number of available single rooms is limited so early payment for this is requested.

A limited number of bursaries will be available for participants without institutional support, unemployed or in precarious working conditions. We particularly welcome applications from scholars and activists committed to research/activism transfer of knowledge, from or with research on the Global South and with grassroots organising experience.