

5th Labour Transfer School: establishing links between research and labour activism

Buggerru, Sardinia, Italy, 3rd to 10th June 2026

We are happy to launch a new call for participation in LabourTransfer!

The school 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 and fourth edition of the school in June 2024 and 2025 (see programmes and pictures on our webpage; www.labourtransfer.org). From the beginning, participants have come from all continents and each year, activists and scholars from dozens of countries meet in Buggerru with us. This growth can be seen in the new themes and topics added every year and in the support different university institutions and labour-oriented foundations have been granting us.

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 co-learning, strategizing, and 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.

The idea of the school is that of combining knowledge exchange, research and rest. Buggerru, where the school is located, is a small lovely village by the sea in Sardinia. However, Buggerru is also symbolically important for labour history. It was a mining

village 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 were injured. Those events of Sunday, 4 September 1904, are still remembered today because the Buggerru Massacre sparked the first general strike in Italian history.

The programme of the school changes every year, reflecting on applicants' expertise and on the political priority given to specific topics. We can anticipate that this year the programme will intend to cover, in workshop format, the following issues:

- trade union power in a time of fascism and crisis
- just transition and labour
- labour and social reproduction
- understanding and comparing regional and sector-specific labour struggles in global contexts
- labour, journalism and art
- labour law and activism
- labour and technological changes
- understanding past struggles for winning in the future
- Dock workers, labour and anti-war movement

For an idea of the content and structure, you can view the previous programme (s) here: <https://www.labourtransferschool.org/previouseditions/2025>

Application

We are aiming to select about seventy activists and students. Selection will be based on 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. If your application is successful, 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 complete the form on our website, [link here](#)

Applications will be open until the 27th of November 2025. Applications submitted after this date will be considered only if places are still available. Selected participants will be notified of their acceptance to the school by the 4th of December 2025. 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 the following costs: hotel accommodation (5 nights); meals (for the duration of the school); transfer from Cagliari to Buggerru; extra local activities (mine visit, boat trip). This year, a contribution from the Region of Sardinia will allow participants to stay two extra days

free of charge in Buggerru (8th and 9th of June), for cultural activities and events linked to the school.

We have a fee structure on two layers:

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

These fees are for participants paying by the 20th of January (Early bird) to allow room reservation on time. Fees for later payments are 20% higher. 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.