

## THE FUTURE OF WORK IN WORLD SOCIETY : THE ROLE OF LABOUR IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Work and employment, particularly the international division of labour, are a key principle of the economic and social structure of world society. Decades of globalization have fundamentally transformed this structure : The West has experienced de-industrialization, China has become the « factory of the world » , and even services have been increasingly outsourced to locations in the Global South (e.g. India, the Philippines). Many companies organize their production processes with headquarters and research & development in the North and a flexible value chain spread over different locations in the South, taking advantage of an intense locational competition (in terms of wages, taxes, quality of infrastructure etc.). The ILO (Global Wage Report 2018/19) finds that workers in Asia have experienced the highest real wage growth among all world regions over the period 2006–17, yet in many low- and middle-income countries average wages remain low and insufficient to adequately cover the needs of workers and their families.

The workshop addresses these changes in the nature of work and employment in and for the countries of the Global South, as well as their implications for world society as a whole. Questions that may be treated include (but are not limited to): How exactly is work and employment changing in the world factories of the Asian semi-periphery (China, India, Vietnam etc.). To what extent is work in these countries susceptible to business models relying on further automation, digitization and/or relocation (to the core countries of the Global North and/or to the periphery of the Global South)? How does the global platform economy operate and what is its impact on the countries of the Global South? How are governments, international organizations, and (local and global) civil society actors responding to these changes?