**LATIN AMERICAN LABOR CONGRESS**

**Work and Labourers – Past and Present**

**La Paz, Bolivia – 2-6 May 2017**

**INSTITUTIONS: IISG -AMSTERDAM / CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES SOCIALES (CIS) DE LA VICEPRESIDENCIA DEL ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE BOLIVIA / ILO- BOLIVIA; INTERNATIONALCENTER RE-WORK AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY (BERLIN); SOCIOLOGIA- FLACSO (FACULTAD LATINOAMERICANA EN CIENCIAS SOCIALES-ECUADOR); CARRERA DE HISTORIA UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRES (UMSA)**

General Organization:

Rossana Barragán R. (IISG-Amsterdam) [rba@iisg.nl](mailto:rba@iisg.nl)

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Work is a multifaceted and fundamental experience. As millions of women, men, young people and even children swamp the streets of Latin America with their labour activities, this diversity is strikingly visible for any observer. Despite this, work, labourers and associated social mobilisations have not been at the forefront of inter-disciplinary research concerns in the last decades. While labour history has experienced a notable upswing in some countries (especially in Brazil and Argentina) – the field still has to face a series of obstacles and limitations. One is a frequent rift and lack of communication between disciplines and researchers on slavery or indigenous labour during the colonial period, on the one hand, and researchers on industry, anarchism, social movements or researchers on labour flexibility, contemporary migrations or labour precariousness on the other. This is seconded by a tendency to equate “labour history” with the history of male industrial workers since the late nineteenth century, neglecting the experiences of other groups of labourers before and after that, particularly women. In addition, labour research is still framed very much in local or national settings, with few regional and/or comparative studies. Global and translocal perspectives are also extremely rare. Looking at the research communities itself, it is not infrequent that labour historiography in one country is not known in neighbouring countries or that the Mexican bibliography on slavery is not really accessible to slavery scholars in Peru. In fact, links between Latin American scholars and their counterparts in the Global North are often more frequent than a dialogue within the region. Finally, there are no spaces to share experiences and research among countries.

Considering this situation, the aims of this Congress are:

1. To position and reposition labour history of workers in the historiography of Latin America articulating gender and ethnicity from different disciplines in search of an inter and intra disciplinary approach.
2. To gather and articulate experiences, histories and researchers in labour history within Latin America and the Caribbean to think beyond our borders and to think the global world. To analyze the role of the ILO since its creation is certainly key to understand the labour history in Latin America in the twentieth century.
3. To start a dialogue which is aimed at achieving an intra-continental integration of labour history efforts, building a community which can share topics and debates.
4. To ensure a podium of speakers which is mixed in relation to gender, origin, and generation, bringing both established senior scientists and younger researches together.
5. To start to have regular meetings, Congresses on Latin American Labour history, that would take place every two or three years in different countries organized by a network that brings together different institutions.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE CONGRESS**

The Congress will start on May 2 in the afternoon and there will be 4 topics for 4 days. There will be also additional activities.

* **Keynote Speakers on “Labour History: Past, present and future”, 1st. Day, 2 May.**

The Congress will invite to conference on Global History, Translocal, Microhistory and Connected Histories.

* **Thematic Sessions**

In this first congress, we aim to build relations and links among the researchers that will be gathered. It will thus be held in continuous (plenary) sessions and not multiple sessions simultaneously. This means to privilege some topics, 5 in total through 5 days. The plan is to have 9 to 10 papers per day with 4 discussants and a total of 50 papers and 20 discussants in 5 days.

The four topics and sessions are:

1. **Languages, concepts and representations about labour and work, 3d. May**
2. **Social conflicts and struggles: labour contentiousness in different periods, 4th. May**
3. **Labour – unfree and free: slavery, transitions and ambiguities, flexibilization and precariousness, 5th. May**
4. **Labour: local and global migrations, 6th. May**

Each topic is organized by 3 researchers of different countries who worked in different periods of time; they are responsible for their session as a team. They can also present papers in other sessions.

Each session aims to stress the scope of a Latin American outlook. Preference will be given to papers which have a comparative or translocal approach, bringing similarities and differences into view. The second principle guiding the session will be to bring different levels of expertise together (which might well coincide with generational differences but not automatically so). Combining overviews of the research field, more specific empirical presentations, and contextualising comments by discussants, the sessions hope to highlight the potentials for a more integrated debate in Latin American labour histories.

The sessions are:

1. **LANGUAGES, CONCEPTS AND REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT LABOUR AND WORK 3 May**

**Organizers**: Valeria Coronel (FLACSO-Ecuador): [vcoronel@flacso.edu.ec](mailto:vcoronel@flacso.edu.ec) María Ullivarri (CONICET-Argentina): [ulliva@gmail.com](mailto:ulliva@gmail.com) David Mayer (IISG-Amsterdam, Países Bajos): [david.mayer@iisg.nl](mailto:david.mayer@iisg.nl)

**Discussants:**

**Mirta Lobato (Argentina).**Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires. Specialist in Social History, History of the making of the working class in Argentina; Labor and Gender.

**Sidney Chalhoub (Brazil, United States).**Harvard University.  Specialist in Social History, History of Slavery and Manumission in Brazil in the Nineteenth Century.

1. **SOCIAL CONFLICTS AND STRUGGLES: LABOUR CONTENTIOUSNESS THROUGH HISTORY. 4 May**

**Organizers**: Gabriela Scodeller (CONICET, INCIHUSA-CCT Mendoza) [g\_scodeller@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:g_scodeller@yahoo.com.ar) Lucas Poy (CONICET, Universidad de Buenos Aires): Lucas Poy [lucaspoy@gmail.com](mailto:lucaspoy@gmail.com) Larissa Correa (PUC-Río, Brasil): [larissarosacorrea@hotmail.com](mailto:larissarosacorrea@hotmail.com)

**Discussants:**

**Sergio Serulnikov (Argentina).**  Universidad de San Andrés, Buenos Aires. Specialist in the Hispanic Colonial World; Andean Societies; Indian Rebellions and Social Movements.

**Carlos Illades (Mexico).** Universidad Autónoma de Cuajimalpa, México. Specialist in Social History, Ninetheenth and Twentiteh Century; History of the Left, Socialism and Political Violence.

1. **LABOUR – UNFREE AND FREE; SLAVERY, TRANSITIONS AND AMBIGUITIES, FLEXIBILIZATION AND PRECARIOUSSNESS. 5 May**

**Organizers:** Beatriz Mamigonian (Universidad Federal Santa Catarina, Brasil) [beatriz.mamigonian@ufsc.br](mailto:beatriz.mamigonian@ufsc.br) Paola Revilla (Bolivia, Universidad de Chile y EHESS-Paris):  [p.revillao@gmail.com](mailto:p.revillao@gmail.com) Mauritzio Atzeni (Centro de Investigaciones Laborales, Argentina): [matzeniwork@gmail.com](mailto:matzeniwork@gmail.com)

**Discussants:**

**Christian G. De Vito** **(Italy).** Utrecht University, Leicester University. Labour and Social History; Unfree and Free Work; Penal and Convict Labour in Latin America.

**Brígida von Mentz (México**). Historian, Researcher of CIESAS (Centro de Investigación y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social-México). Specialist in Social and Economic History; Mining and Labour History, Indingenous History.

1. **LABOUR: LOCAL AND GLOBAL MIGRATIONS 6 May**

**Organizers:** Alexandre Fortes (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro - UFRRJ-Brasil):

**Discussants:**

**Verena Stolcke (Spain).**  Emeritus Professor of the Universidad de Barcelona. Anthropologist specialist in History and Gender, Slavery, Cuba and Brazil.

**Gioconda Herrera (Ecuador).** FLACSO-Ecuador. Specialist in International Migrations; Gender and Migration; Social Inequalities and Globalization.

* **Other Activities:**

**Wednesday 3 May:**

Midday: The ILO in Latin America.

Evening: Dialogue and debate: Representatives of Bolivian Enterprises, Labour Ministry and Representatives of the Trade Union (COB).

Place: Hall from the Vice presidency.

**Thursday 4 May: Evening**

Key Note from Álvaro García Linera, Vice President of Bolivia.

**Friday 5 May. Midday**

Round Table: Labour History: perspectives from Europe and the United States.

**TEAM AND ORGANIZER COMMITTEE:**

Integrated by the Organizers of the 4 sessions and by the representatives of institutions who will participate and help with the event.

**Cooperation Partners:**

* International Institute of Social History (IISG)
* Centro de Investigaciones Sociales (CIS) from the Vice-Presidency of Bolivia
* International Research Center "Work and Lifecycle in Global History"

(re:work) at Humboldt University BerlinRe-Work (Germany)

* ILO Bolivia

**Sponsor Institutions:**

* Carrera de Historia, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz
* FLACSO Ecuador

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**There will be 10 papers per day: 4 from the end of the Sixteenth Century to the Eighteenth Century and 6 from the Nineteenth to Twentieth Century.**

1. Survey presentations giving insight into the state of the art and the current debates in certain field as well as raising questions for further debate.
2. Discussant contributions that highlight conceptual and theoretical discussions of recent trends or perspectives.
3. Papers focussing on particular events and processes that are important in Latin American history (conquest, slavery, agrarian reforms, dictatorships, etc.).

Collaborations between scholars are more than welcome.

**Our hope is that we could gather a group that could go beyond their highly specialized case studies.**

**SUBMISSION**

**1. ABSTRACTS**

**DEADLINE: October 30, 2016**

600 words. The abstract should present the topic, the questions, the main arguments and the sources of analysis.

Contributions will be selected in November-December.

**2. PAPERS**

A full paper should be presented after approval of the abstract before **MARCH 1st. 2017**.

It is possible that the Congress will finance one researcher per day. In this case, the papers should be presented before January 30, 2017. The Committee will select contributions before the end of February 2017.

**QUERIES**

Please contact:

1. The 3 organizers of the session. They will answer your questions. Do not forget to send your queries with copy to:

2. The Organizers: Rossana Barragán R. (IISG-Amsterdam) [rba@iisg.nl](mailto:rba@iisg.nl)

Amaru Villanueva R. (CIS-Vice-Presidency Bolivia) [amaruv@gmail.com](mailto:amaruv@gmail.com)

**Languages**

Spanish and Portuguese. In the round table, if English is used, simultaneous translation will be offered.