



**WTFLabour Law Summer Camp
8-11 July 2024, Bari, Italy**

DISRUPTION DISSIDENT KNOWLEDGES DISTRIBUTION

**MOVING
LABOUR
COLLECTIVE**

Formed in 2018, the Moving Labour Collective (MLC) is a community of academics and researchers open to trade unionists, labour and social activists. We collectively believe in the fundamental socio-political principles and values of labour law and in national and transnational labour solidarity. We are committed to grassroots struggles, and therefore, seek to produce reflections and investigations that are useful to workers, trade unions, labour collectives and social movements. We want to imagine a future for labour law that is informed by a sharp critique of racial/colonial capitalism, infused with the voices of working people and labour movements, and invigorated by the spirit of collective struggle.

In 2018, we organized our first summer camp at ExFadda in Puglia, Italy. Over five days, the participants explored the future of labour law in connection with such themes as migration, new technologies, environment, social movements, also engaging with local labour organizations and social movement actors. Given our interest in building a community, we made time for being together, knowing each other, and connecting with the local culture. Our plans for a second summer camp in 2020, on “Theory and Praxis” were interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. For 2024 we are re-launching the camp where it all started.

Our Focus

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed wider contradictions and structural problems in capitalist organization of social and economic life, including in how we value labour. Promises to "build back better", remained unfulfilled, not least as the pandemic has to a large extent reproduced capitalist logics and exacerbated existing inequalities.

To address the challenges of the current conjuncture, we want to interrogate and disrupt these logics, especially with regard to questions of distribution and justice (social, economic, ecological, epistemic). Envisioning possible futures begins by engaging with already existing, if submerged alternatives -- what we call "dissident knowledges". These dissident knowledges provide us with a crucial opportunity to re-create, reimagine and reassemble our visions of how work, labour and livelihoods are regulated, and expand the horizon of possibility for organizing social and economic life.

Camp Structure and Themes

The camp will unfold over four days. After the first (half) day dedicated to the introduction of the MLC Summer Camp in a plenary session, the subsequent three (full) days will be devoted to thematic discussions and plenaries.

Three overarching themes have been selected for the activities of the 2024 Camp:

Theme 1: "Challenging the binary divide between standard and non-standard work" will invite critiques to labour law aimed at the binary logic of 'traditional' distinctions and their exclusionary impact (Day 2)

Theme 2: "Empowerment and disempowerment" will engage with labour law and collective action in the context of labour struggles to investigate legal and extralegal factors that empower or disempower workers and labour movements (Day 3)

Theme 3: "Organizational ecologies" will stress the importance of exploring innovative organizational forms of work and livelihood, and their regulation (Day 4)

Each day, participants can choose one of three working groups to explore the day's theme through the following three approaches:

- A: Repertoires of collective action;
- B: Labour and racial/colonial capitalism;
- C: Social reproduction and labours of love.

(e.g. discussion for Day 2, will be structured in three groups tackling theme 1 under each respective approach: 1A; 1B; 1C)

Application

To apply, please send us a CV and statement of motivation briefly outlining your research and/or activist endeavours and your interest in the camp and the MLC (no more than 500 words) to the movinglabourcollective@gmail.com by **15 January 2024**.

- If you are a researcher, we ask that your statement comments on your interest in one of the above themes, alongside one of the approaches we have identified. You can tell us how this theme/approach pair features in your own work, or what you think of their relation.
- If you are an activist, your statement should elaborate briefly how your work and commitments might align with the broader themes laid out in the call. If the specific themes and approaches identified above are directly relevant to your work, tell us about this as well.

Acceptance of applications will be confirmed by 31 January 2024. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to send us an email at the same address.

Fee

The participation fee (standard fee: 60 euros; solidarity fee: 150 euros) covers lunches and operational costs during the Camp. Costs for travel and accommodation are not covered by the participation fee, thus participants are expected to make their own arrangements.

MLC is an independent collective with no access to institutional funding. However, we recognize that there are many barriers to participation, especially to those without access to funding and institutional support, or those living in low-income countries. We endeavour to make every effort to provide partial financial assistance to successful applicants who might otherwise be prevented from participating. Among others, we call upon the solidarity of those participants with access to sources of institutional funding. Depending on the success of our efforts, assistance will be prioritized for early career scholars and activists, especially those coming from the 'Global South' and low-income countries, or those who are members of underrepresented and/or marginalized communities.

Organizing Committee: Vladimir Bogoeski, Manoj Dias-Abey, Andrea Iossa, Claire Mummé, Miriam Kullmann, Vincenzo Pietrogiovanni, Venera Protopapa, Inga Thiemann, Fotis Vergis, and Ania Zbyszewska

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