



Hybrid Workshop

Migrant Workers' Resistance and Infrastructures of Solidarity

26 February 2024

Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) & online
University of Osnabrück/Germany

Migrants are often among the most vulnerable workers due to their often insecure legal status. This is particularly true for undocumented people. This precarity notwithstanding, migrant workers have been engaging in labor struggles all over the globe. Just recently, for example, Pakistani workers in Italy have been going on wildcat strikes at the company *Mondo Convenienza*; migrant workers in over 30 countries, including Turkey, France, the UK, Spain and Germany were protesting against *Amazon* on Black Friday in order to “Make Amazon Pay”. In Berlin, migrant workers went on a wildcat strike at the food delivery company *Gorillas*.

Such highly visible forms of resistance are not always possible. In Switzerland, for example, migrant live-in care workers from Eastern European countries have been engaged in building up “infrastructures of solidarity” among each other and in collaboration with trade unions and civil society actors to counter their disenfranchisement and exploitation. Such infrastructural practices include solidarity work, providing safe spaces, distributing counter-knowledge and establishing different social and affective relations.

We invite to a hybrid workshop at which we ask conceptually whether the concept of “infrastructures of solidarity” captures aspects that a more common understanding of “solidarity” does not. Who is (not) part of these infrastructures of solidarity? How formal or informal, how ad-hoc or sustainable are they?

The event is part of the activities of the European hub of the Soli*City network. More information: <https://www.torontomu.ca/urban-sanctuary-solidarity-hospitality/>. The workshop is also part of a program accompanying the exhibition “Migrantischer Widerstand – damals, heute, morgen!” / “Migrant Resistance – Then, Now, Tomorrow!” by Gürsel Yıldırım (Hamburg), taking place from Feb 19 until March 15 at DGB Osnabrück (German Trade Union Federation, August-Bebel-Platz 1, 49074 Osnabrück). On-site participants can visit the exhibition.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Sarah Schilliger (Switzerland) on “Infrastructures of Solidarity”.

The workshop can be accessed online via <https://webconf.uni-osnabrueck.de/b/phi-wup-jhu-fzo>.

Convenors and contact for interested speakers and registration:

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Schedule

- 14:00 Reception
- 14:15 Keynote:
Sarah Schilliger (University of Bern, Switzerland)
Infrastructures of solidarity:
Analyzing the emergence of solidarity relations in the field of migration
- 15:15 **Isabel Gutiérrez Sánchez** (Spanish National Research Council, Spain)
Infrastructures of Caring Citizenship: Care commons and struggles
- 15:55 Short break
- 16:10 **Cecilia Vergnano** (KU Leuven, Belgium)
Eradicating agricultural labour exploitation:
Provisional reflections on the structural limits of solidarity and humanitarian initiatives
- 16:50 **Philipp Ratfisch** (University of Osnabrück, Germany)
Infrastructure of Solidarity meets Infrastructure of Transit:
Afghan*Pakistani recycling workers in Istanbul
- 17:30 Final discussion, conclusive words
- 18:00 End of the workshop
- 19:00 Dinner at a restaurant for those present in Osnabrück