

ECPR JS Pluralising Social Reproduction Approaches 25-28 March 2024 - Workshop programme

Location: Building 40, Floor: 2, Room: 255 ([campus map](#))

Emergency number: +45 5124 6781 Laura (also WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram)

Online participants are listed in cursive, all times are GMT+1. Zoom link <https://ruc-dk.zoom.us/j/65341826170?pwd=ZHV2dlpTRzBOMU8ycmV0NUU1Q0J0QT09>

	Monday 25/3	Tuesday 26/3	Wednesday 27/3	Thursday 28/3
	Theory and concepts	Labour, work, social reproduction	State policies, borders, social protection	Identities, inequalities
9.30 - 10.30	Welcome and Introduction	Chair: Shirin Christopher Choong Weng Wai - <i>Milking the Labour of Suri Rumah: A Case Study on Farm Fresh Malaysia</i> Magdalena Grabowska and Marta Rawluszko - <i>When the state protects me not, I shall keep my sister safe. Social reproductive role of feminist movements under the realities of a polycrisis.</i> Asma Abdi - <i>Intimacy in (the time of) crisis: Tracing the linkages between the intimate, the state and crises of social reproduction under the sanction regime in Iran</i>	Free morning session for thinking, reading and drinking coffee	Chair: Laura Paula Mählick - <i>Pedagogies of Unlearning: Continuities and changes in how domestic workers unlearn cheapening in their everyday work life in expatriate households in Dar es Salaam.</i> Crystal Whetstone - <i>Theorizing Social Reproduction through China's Internally Colonized Uyghur Community: The Need to Reconcile Exploitation and Oppression</i>
Break				

11.00 - 12.30	Introduction II - Key questions	Walk and talk session <i>Reflections</i> - <i>On our academic experiences and practices</i> - <i>On theoretical and conceptual dimensions and resonances</i>	Chair: Shirin Stefanie Wöhl - An intersectional feminist approach to affordable housing and social reproduction Rebecca Hall - Social Reproduction in the Settler Colonial Context Johanna Cortes - Community-based social protection before the gaze of the state	Conclusions, reflections, and next steps As hybrid session
<i>Lunch</i>	University canteen	University canteen	University canteen	University canteen
14 - 15	Chair: Stefanie Shirin Rai - Pluralising Social Reproduction Approaches Tine Haubner - Social Reproduction beyond the 'proper job': For a Spatially sensitive 'SRT' beyond Productivity Functionalism	Chair: Stefanie Mitaja Chakraborty - <i>Some methodological concerns: life-making and meaning making in the local garment activism spaces in Dhaka</i> Linn Ternsjö - Working Lives and Labour Agency in the Mauritian Garment Industry	Chair: Laura Matt Withers - Depleting the Pacific Labour Reserve: Transnational Social Reproduction and Uneven Development in the PALM Scheme Marek Fenners - Migrant Labour and Social Reproduction between the Gulf and India	Safe travels!
<i>Break</i>				
15.30 - 16.30	Chair: Laura John Barry - Centring Social Reproduction through Decentring and Decolonising 'Malestream Economics' Serap Sarıtaş - <i>Social Reproduction Theory and Nature: A</i>	Chair: Laura Angelica Antonchen Colombo - <i>Social Reproduction Theory and Reproductive Injustice in Brazil: a feminist critical analysis</i> Daryn Howland - <i>Reproducing Racial Capitalism: interrogating racialized labour migration, class formation and social reproduction in</i>	Chair: Stefanie Rachel Rosen - From burden to protagonist: Renewing conceptualisations of social reproduction through attention to marginalised children Ayşe Arslan - Women workers' everyday experiences of social	

	<i>framework for pensions</i>	<i>the Arab Gulf</i> Riya Raphael - <i>Social reproduction of waste</i>	reproduction in Turkey: A relational, holistic approach	
		17:15 – 18:30 Keynote Lisbet Hooghe https://ecpr.eu/Events/264		
Evening event		18.30 - 20.00 ECPR Welcome Reception	Our workshop dinner 19.00 L'Osteria	

Title:

Some Methodological concerns: life-making and meaning making in the local garment activism spaces in Dhaka

Abstract:

While feminists from the global south have put forth the idea of an anti-colonial feminist solidarity with an emphasis on the intersections of race, class, caste, sexuality, gender, nation and colonialism, this paper extends that call to the methodological concerns of doing feminist research in South Asia. I locate this paper in the Bangladeshi garment workers' movements and local labour activist networks foregrounding the necessities of activist spaces that sustain movements as well as families by replenishing the labour power, will and aspirations of an entire workforce. Being a well-researched 'subject' community for transnational rights organisations, garment workers and union leaders in Bangladesh are aware of and prepared to respond to the standard questions about their work and struggles whenever an international researcher visits the industrial belts in the suburbs of Dhaka. The template is set – for them as well for the researcher; they know what an international researcher wants. During one of these visits, one middle aged garment worker, while initially refusing to speak to me, said, “I bare my life every time, but then they leave and nothing happens. Why should I speak to anyone anymore?”. She has been working in a nearby garment factory for the past two years and in the industry for the past eight years. But she instantly feels regret and explains that she was just expressing her frustration at being at this same position every time for some or the other research project – the faces change but life remains the same. In this paper, I seek to explore the modalities of how feminist research can centre the concerns of labour and gender on “life-making” processes that unfold in the field. This not only requires one to record the field in its “thick descriptions” and the peculiarities of gendered care-work, but also to be mindful of that immersion and be cautious of the narratives of loss, labour and sympathy that the transnational activist spaces weave. In doing so, I undertake a mixed methods approach and propose to extend the SRT framework to understand the process of the reproduction of labour power from the sites of work, communities and organisational spaces, marking a shift from the conjugal/domestic spaces. I would also like to explore the interesting relationship between an international researcher and the workers, in a field as dynamic as the garment industry in Dhaka, where meaning making becomes a two-way process – between the main actors in the field and an outsider extending (fruitless) solidarity.