

Call for Papers

Chinese labour in the global economy: capitalist exploitation and strategies of resistance.

Two-day workshop hosted by the *Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice* (CSSGJ) and the *Centre for Contemporary Chinese Politics* (CCCCP) at Nottingham University/UK, 11 – 12 September 2014.

Chinese development is widely considered to be an example of successful developmental catch-up with double-digit growth rates year on year. Some even talk of an emerging power, which may in time replace the US as the global economy's hegemon. And yet, there is a dark underside to this 'miracle' in the form of workers' long hours and widespread super-exploitative working conditions. This has resulted in increasing inequality and rising levels of industrial conflict across China.

The purpose of this workshop is twofold: (1) to assess the way China has been integrated into the global economy to understand better the basis of these economic growth rates, but also to investigate how the exploitative working conditions are linked into global production structures; and (2) to analyse new forms of resistance be it through the state trade union All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), be it through informal labour NGOs. The latter also implies analyses of links between Chinese formal and informal labour organisations with national and international, formal and informal labour organisations outside China.

The workshop intends to reach beyond academia and facilitate discussions between academics and trade union researchers as well as social movement activists. Hence, we invite papers by all three groups in the following areas:

- the structural dynamics of Chinese production in the global economy;
- the structural and associational power resources of Chinese workers;
- the role of the ACFTU including the debate about its potential transformation;
- the struggles of grassroots Chinese labour organisations;
- Chinese workers' formal and informal links with the global working class;
- the impact of China's integration into the global economy on labour movements elsewhere in the world;
- the connections between industrial action, i.e. agency, and the global political economy, i.e. structure.

Confirmed speakers include Prof. Anita Chen (Australian National University), Dr. Eli Friedman (Cornell University), Prof. Jane Hardy (University of Hertfordshire), Dr. Huang Yan (South China Normal University), War on Want (labour NGO based in London), Laowei (labour law firm based in Shenzhen, China) and Paul Mason, the Culture and Digital Editor of *Channel 4 News*, who will provide the public keynote lecture.

Paper proposals of ca. 250 words should be sent to Chun-Yi.Lee@nottingham.ac.uk by **31 January 2014**. There is no registration fee for the workshop and all participants will be provided with coffee/tea breaks, two lunches and one evening dinner free of charge.

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