



The Politics of Workers' Inquiry

:: an ephemera conference:: May 2nd-3rd, 2013 ::
University of Essex

<http://www.ephemerajournal.org/events/politics-workers-inquiry>

Conference Schedule

Workers' inquiry is an approach to and practice of knowledge production that seeks to understand the changing composition of labor and its potential for revolutionary social transformation. It is the practice of turning the tools of the social sciences into weapons of class struggle. Workers' inquiry seeks to map the continuing imposition of the class relation, not as a disinterested investigation, but rather to deepen and intensify social and political antagonisms.

This conference brings together various aspects of workers' inquiry, from its historical origins and development to contemporary mutations and adaptations of it within contemporary struggles. It will expand the terrain and form of workers' inquiry, focusing on topics including inquiries into cultural labor and the service economy, geographies of class conflict, transformation in value production, and the limits to workers' inquiry as a political/research method.

Day One: Thursday May 2nd, 2013 @ Room 4N2.3

11:00 – 11:30

Welcomes & introduction

11:30 – 12:30

Keynote: Gigi Roggero

12:30 – 1:00

Frederick H. Pitts (University of Bath)

Follow the money': value theory and inquiry

1:00 – 2:00

Lunch

2:00 – 4.00 Turkey: Lines of Conflict & Solidarity

M. Nedim Süalp (Marmara University)

The Political Economy of Geography in Conflict and Solidarity

Asli Kayhan (Kocaeli University) & Zeynep Tul Akbal Sualp (Bahcesehir University)

While working class produce the knowledge of their experiences...

Tolga Hepdincler (Bahcesehir University)
Cultural Studies in the Scene of Social Conflict and Social Solidarity

Funda Kaya (Bahcesehir University)
Social conflicts, class formation and everyday life in working class neighborhoods

4:00 – 4:20 Coffee break

4:20 – 4:50 Heidi Hasbrouck (Goldsmiths)
The NJ Diner Circuit. A workers inquiry into the precarity of diner service.

4:50 – 5.30
Discussion

6:00 Drinks & dinner in Wivenhoe

Day Two: Friday May 3rd, 2013 @ Room 5B.111A

9:00 – 10:00
Coffee & discussion

10:00 – 11:00
Keynote: Anna Curcio

11:00 – 1:00 Workers' Inquiry & Cultural Work
Alan W. Moore (ABC No Rio / Squatting Europe)
Art Workers Want to Know

Bianca Elzebaumer & Caterina Giuliani (Cantiere per pratiche non-affermative)
Designers' Inquiry & the Italian Fashion Industry

Michał Kozłowski, Janek Sowa, Kuba Szreder (Free / Slow University of Warsaw)
Forces of labour in visual arts (and its close neighbourhood)

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 Inquiry Beyond the Cultural Industries
Kasparas Pocius (Vilnius Free University)
Bouncing in the dark: the attempt of workers' inquiry in Lithuania

Jamie Woodcock (Goldsmiths)
A workers' inquiry into a charity fundraising call centre

3:00 – 3:30 Coffee break

3:30 – 4:30 Overall discussion & conclusion