



Call for abstracts

Reclaiming power Bridging Social Movements and Industrial Relations in Labour Mobilisation

26-27 May 2025

COSMOS - The Centre on Social Movement Studies
Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy

This conference builds upon a renewed interest in class issues among social movements and labour scholars. From the theoretical point of view, the event aims to expand the dialogue between the two fields of study by inviting researchers and scholars who actively integrate frameworks from both areas of studies in their research by looking at repertoires of action that go beyond the workplace, coalitions of labour with different actors, emerging collective identities in search for recognition.

From the empirical point of view, the conference aims to explore synergies between different disciplines by focusing on the dynamics of labour mobilisation in contemporary contexts with particular attention to the (re-)emergence of precarious and exploited workers as central actors in these struggles. With reference to workers in the logistics, hospitality, agriculture, domestic services and other sectors, the conference aims at shedding light on their strategies for collective action and their role in reshaping labour politics, considering their interaction with various social actors, including mainstream and grassroots unions.

This event will provide a platform for in-depth engagement with intersectional and transnational perspectives, contributing to a deeper understanding of the complexities of labour mobilisation in a globalised era.

We aim to bring together scholars at any career stage, researching labour mobilisation from different angles and in different empirical fields. In doing this, we plan to engage with questions such as:

- Who are the key actors involved in contemporary labour mobilisation?
- Which structural constraints—legal, political, or economic—most significantly impact the ability of precarious workers to mobilise? And which ones represent a possible opportunity?

- Which conditions facilitate or hinder the formation of coalitions between precarious workers and mainstream or grassroots unions?
- How do migrant workers navigate legal and institutional constraints to engage in labour activism?
- To what extent does the internationalisation of supply chains impact the strategies of labour mobilisation at the local level?

We welcome proposals bridging theoretical and empirical contributions from the wide spectrum of the social and political sciences, and which adopt diverse methodological approaches.

How to apply

If you wish to participate, fill this [form](#):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwO-_jvdLUILgvpUYKIPYSOY95dGD0VWcTqAem4XFH2SLd6Q/viewform

There will be no registration fee and no reimbursement for travel and accommodation expenses, while an aperitivo will be provided on the first night of the conference.

Deadline for submission: 7th April 2025

Notification of acceptance: mid April

For further information you may contact lucia.amorosi@sns.it and alba.arenaleslope@sns.it

Organisation committee

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