



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BETWEEN PRACTICE AND RESEARCH: DEMOCRATIZATION OF WORK IN THE REALM OF TRANSFER RESEARCH

***JOIN THE
DISCUSSION!***

27 FEBRUARY 2026
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
CLEMENSSTRASSE 17-19
44789 BOCHUM

Conference Organisers:

**Sophia Friedel (Institute for Social Movements, Joint Working
Centre Ruhr University / IG Metall)**

**Manfred Wannöffel (Joint Working Centre Ruhr University / IG
Metall)**

Aurélie Andry (NOVA University Lisbon)

Between Practice and Research: Democratization of Work in the realm of Transfer Research

Conference Programme, Institute for Social Movements, Auditorium, Friday, 27 February

9.00 Welcome with Coffee and Tea

9.15 Opening Impulse

9.30-11.00 Panel 1 - Transfer Research in the sociology of work

Chair: **Lara Obereiner** (Joint Working Centre Rub / IG Metall)

- **Fabian Hoose** (RUB / IG Metall): Prospects for co-determination and participation in times of polycrises: an introduction
- **Manfred Wannöffel** (RUB / IG Metall): Possibilities and limitations of transfer research
- **Sophia Friedel** (Institute for Social Movements, RUB / IG Metall): Changes in industrial production at the tension of practice and discourse

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 Panel 2 - New frameworks, new tensions: the workplace as contested terrain

Chair: **Alicia Gorny** (Institute for Social Movements)

- **Arne Schott** (Heidelberg University): Contested humanisation: A new constellation of actors at local level
- **Mathis Gronau** (Institute for Social Movements): Moving to "Lower Wage" Areas? - The depiction of global production competition in the history of deindustrialization in the textile industry
- **Sophie Rosenbohm, Thomas Haipeter** (Institute for work, skills and training, University of Duisburg-Essen): Reconfiguring workplace democracy: Tensions between participatory and representative democracy in agile organizations

12.45-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 Panel 3 - Democratization versus subjectification

Chair: **Sophie Berretta** (Ruhr University Bochum)

- **Ilmari Hirvonen** (University of Helsinki): Anti-democracy and pseudoscience in the workplace: The case of teal
- **Dino Šakanović** (University of Sarajevo): Self-management in Bosnia and Herzegovina as an example of absolute workers' democracy: Emergence, development, and decline
- **Orit Yushinsky** (Tel Aviv University): Workplace democratization - between self-management and the subject's desire
- **Pedro Teixeira** (Centre Marc Bloch, Humboldt University Berlin): A New Industrial Democracy: Occupational Communities, Labor Constitution and Political Economy

15.00-15.15 Coffee break

15.15-16.45 Panel 4: 21st century labor market transformations and democratic participation

Chair: **Aurélie Andry** (NOVA University Lisbon)

- **Holm-Detlev Köhler** (University of Oviedo): Worker participation in the implementation of algorithmic management and artificial intelligence
- **Martin Möller, Birgit Apitzsch** (Ruhr University Bochum), **Niels Grote, Caroline Ruiner** (Hohenheim University): Democratic organization of mobility in transforming labor markets? Cooperatives of self-employed workers in the transport of persons and goods
- **Ibrahim Orha** (University of Duisburg-Essen): Translating workplace (in)equality into democratic participation: migrant workers between hierarchy, codetermination, and union activism

16.45-17.00 Closing Remarks