



# Research Seminar

# **MIGRANT LABOUR/CONTINGENT LABOUR**

This seminar draws attention to the relationship between transnational labour migration, mobility, and contractual agreements. Through both historical and present empirical examples, the seminar explores how similar and different logics and dynamics of labour migration are reproduced across work in agriculture and the gig economy. What has historically characterized contracting of migrant labour? Which actors condition migrant labour today? How are such logics reproduced? What role does technology play for the contingency and mobility of migrant labour? These as well as a long list of other questions will be explored through examples in Sweden, USA, and Denmark.

## **Programme**

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### **10:00-10:10 Welcome**

### **10:10 - 11:15 Migrant Workers in Agriculture**

10:10-10:35

Don Mitchell: "Machine Learning, 1960s-Style: Mechanization, Migrant Workers, and Labor Contracting after the Bracero Program in the California Agribusiness"

10:35-11:00

Marlene Spanger: "Labour migration - temporary workers and brokers within the agricultural industry"

11:00-11:15

Q&A

### **11:15-11:25 Break**

### **11:25-12:30 Migrant Workers on Platforms**

11:25-11:50

Kristina Zampoukos: "Who's got time for social reproduction? On migrant gig workers and the algorithmic city"

11:50-12:15

Magnus Andersen: "Neglected Migrants: Danish labour market research, the 'platform economy', and migration"

12:15-12:30

Q&A

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**10th of November 2022, 10:00-12:30, Room: ACM15 2.1.009**

Department of Politics and Society, Aalborg University Copenhagen

A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450 Copenhagen SV

Registration: Please register via link in the event by latest the 7th of November 2022



**Don Mitchell**  
**UU/SE**

Don Mitchell is Professor of Human Geography at Uppsala University (Sweden) who researches labor, landscape, and public space among other things. He is a collaborator in the Work Without Jobs research project and has recently launched the project, "From Labor Contracts to Labor Contractors: The United Farm Workers, the Agribusiness Landscape, and the Making of Modern Labor Precarity (1964-2000)" (funded by Vetenskapsrådet: The Swedish Research Council) which builds on earlier research on guest worker programs and examines how the rise and fall of the United Farm Workers in California paved the way for new forms of temporary labor contracting (particularly among migrant workers) that are now prevalent globally.

**Marlene Spanger**  
**AAU/DK**

Marlene Spanger is an Associate Professor at the Department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University who specializes within transnational labour migration, gender, human trafficking, sex for sale, and racialization. She has recently finished the project "Human Trafficking and Forced Migration" focusing on the processes of transnational (im)mobilities to understand the exploitation of migrant labour in Denmark. She is currently working on the research project 'Mobile Lives on the Last Mile', which explores the interlink between digital platform work and labour migration from the perspective of critical migration studies.

**Kristina  
Zampoukos**  
**MIUN/SE**

Kristina Zampoukos is an Associate professor in Human Geography at Mid Sweden University who specializes in feminist approaches to labour geography and migration. She is currently the PI on a research project entitled, "Work Without Jobs: A Study of Gig Economy Workers' Existence" (funded by Forte: The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare), which focuses on the difficulties gig workers confront when seeking to balance work demands and other aspects of their everyday lives.

**Magnus  
Andersen**  
**AAU/DK**

Magnus Andersen is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Culture and Learning, Aalborg University, where he is a member of the research group Democracy, Migration and Society. Andersen research focuses on logistics and the transformation of transnational labor migration. He is currently working on the research project 'Mobile Lives on the Last Mile', which explores the interlink between digital platform work and labour migration from the perspective of critical migration studies.