

Working Life Research Theme

Annual Report

The Working Life research theme was launched at the start of the 2015/16 academic year. A series of seminars were held that year, ending in the Summer Term with a roundtable debate on "The Implications of Brexit for Employment Rights". During 2016/17 a further series of seminars were held, again ending with a final one-day event, as follows:

23rd November 2016

The collective labour of a sector: work and workers in classic motoring

Dr Ödül Bozkurt (University of Sussex)

25th January 2017

A burden on business? How small firms adapt to regulation

Professor John Kitching (Kingston University)

22nd February 2017

Entrepreneurial practice in pregnancy: a critical realist framework

Professor Julia Rouse (Manchester Metropolitan University)

3rd May 2017

Ethnicity and low wage traps: favouritism, homosocial reproduction and economic marginalization

Dr Maria Hudson (University of Essex)

6th June 2017

Mini-conference on "New Frontiers in Working Life"

Professor Katie Bailey (University of Sussex)

Professor Clare Kelliher (Cranfield University)

Professor Debra Howcroft (University of Manchester)

Professor Rob Briner (Queen Mary, University of London)

Dr Louise Ashley (Royal Holloway)

A "journals workshop" was also held on 16th March 2017, with advice on all aspects of journal submissions given by a panel of colleagues who hold senior editorial positions (Neil Conway, Chris Grey, Dennis Tourish and Yingqin Zheng).

Attendances at the regular seminars were low, although the discussions were of a high calibre. The two broader events were better supported, and both worked really well.

Applications for seedcorn funding were requested in the Spring Term. A number of queries were made, and two formal proposals supported, from Ling Zhang and Andreas Chatzidakis.

Spending during the 2016/17 financial year was as follows:

Travel (staff)	432.13
Travel (visitors)	332.44
Hospitality	748
Professional fees	440
TOTAL	£1,952.57

I made a further attempt to initiate small discussions of seminal papers as well as a meeting of PhD students researching in relevant areas, but neither of these met with sufficient interest. As next year (2017/18) will be my third and final year running the theme, I would like to prioritise establishing a small PhD group, and also try to foster some stronger external links with policy-oriented bodies. One idea is for an impact event with several invited speakers (I am currently discussing this with other theme leaders). I also intend to hold a workshop on research funding where colleagues can receive advice at the very early stages of developing applications.

Chris Rees

August 2017