



ARRS

SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY



Peace Institute

Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies



University of Ljubljana
FACULTY OF ARTS



CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTER PROPOSALS

Transformations of Work Through the Lens of Sex Work

1. Invitation to submit a chapter proposal and participate at a seminar

You are welcome to submit a chapter proposal for a book with the working title *Transformations of Work Through the Lens of Sex Work*. Selected authors will be invited to present a draft of the chapter and discuss the book at a seminar in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 22-23 June 2023. The organizers aim to publish the book in 2024 with an international publisher (e.g. Interdisciplinary Studies in Sex for Sale, Taylor & Francis; Advances in Sex Work Studies, Palgrave).

2. Aim of the book

The book addresses the following question: In what way are insights from sex work informative for the debates about transformations of work, the labour markets, and workers' rights? The aim is to anchor sex work more firmly in theoretical discussions about work, with special attention to consideration of the processes of digitization, platformization, precarization, and emotionalization (Beck 1992; Castells 2004; Hochschild 2012; Ilouz 2007; Kalleberg 2017; Standing 2016; Wacquant 2016). It will strengthen occupational perspectives on sex work by incorporating concepts such as workplace health and safety, quality of employment and professionalization into discussions. This will help to understand trends within and outside of sex work.

3. Rationale

Although marginalized and stigmatized, sex work is often at the centre of social change. In recent years, with tremendous speed and adaptability, the sex industry has embraced the processes of digitization (Jiao, Bungay, and Jenkins 2021; Pajnik et al. 2016), platformization (Easterbrook-Smith 2022; Uttarapong et al. 2022), precarization (Sanders and Hardy 2013; Lewis et al. 2015),

emotionalization (Carbonero and Gómez Garrido 2018; Tewksbury and Lapsey 2017), and intimization (Boris and Parreñas 2010; Cohen et al. 2013) of work. As in many other sectors, the share of platform work and work from home is growing rapidly, creating opportunities including new forms of solidarity as well as challenges, such as new forms of violence and exclusion (Easterbrook-Smith 2022; Sanders, Connelly, and King 2016; Uttarapong et al. 2022). Expectations of work are changing because of the shifting boundaries of intimacy that reflect the fact that immaterial and affective labour has become a paradigmatic mode of work in late capitalism and the service economy (Clough 2007; Hardt 1999). In the literature, sex workers are described as the ideal neoliberal subject because they are highly dependent on the market, they are rarely unionized, they use their own means of production for work and they are often solely responsible for their own health and safety on the job (Kong 2017; Rivers-Moore 2014). Yet for many, the appeal of sex work is precisely that it takes place outside the rules and regulations typical of other professions (Garofalo and Maciotti 2016).

Questions arise as to what extent developments in sex work are symptomatic of broader transformations of work and labour markets. Where do the positions of sex workers intersect with those of other workers? How are digitization, platformization, precarization, and emotionalization changing the notion of work and workers' rights?

4. Submission of proposals

We welcome original theoretical and/or empirical contributions that reflect the aims and rationale presented. Of particular interest, but not exclusively, are papers that address the following topics:

- sex work as an indicator and agent of change in work and labour markets;
- emergence, structure, and management of occupational risk in non-standard and unregulated work relationships;
- challenging notions of work and labour rights in sex and platform work;
- sex industry responses to crises, e.g., epidemics, economic crises, restrictive policies;
- changing organizational patterns, work routines, and the dissolution of boundaries between personal and professional lives;
- changing power relations in the sector and in the economy;
- worker empowerment strategies (e.g., peer support, unionization, self-organization);
- policy implications and solutions in sex work, labour, and digital rights.

Please send your proposal to leja.markelj@mirovni-institut.si by 31 March 2023 including following information:

- author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation, email address;
- title of paper and abstract of 800-1000 words, including problem statement, theoretical background, methodology, results, and originality;
- brief biographical information and a list of 3-5 publications.

5. Timeline

- Submission of proposal by 20 April 2023
- Notification of acceptance by 30 April 2023
- Seminar to be held on 22-23 June 2023
- Submission of book chapter by 31 August 2023
- Initial review by 30 September 2023
- Revision by 31 November 2023
- First draft of the book by 31 December 2023
- Submitting of book to publisher in the first half of 2024

The final version of the timeline will be discussed with the authors at the seminar.

6. Fees and language

There is no fee for publishing a chapter or to attend the seminar. Participants of the seminar will be reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses. The book and seminar language is English.

7. Organizers

Organized by the [Peace Institute](#), Ljubljana and the [Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana](#), Slovenia

8. Organizing Committee

- [Iztok Šori](#), Doctor of Sociology, researcher and director of the Peace Institute (editor)
- [Majda Hrženjak](#), Doctor of Sociology, researcher at the Peace Institute (editor)
- [Mojca Pajnik](#), Professor of Media and Communication at the University of Ljubljana and researcher at the Peace Institute
- [Leja Markelj](#), MA in Social Pedagogy, researcher at the Peace Institute

- [Roman Kuhar](#), Professor of Sociology of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Ljubljana
- [Mojca Freljih](#), MA in Sociology, researcher at the Peace Institute

9. Funding

The book and the seminar are part of the research project [Occupational Risks in Sex Work at the Intersections of Policy Framework and Social Stigma \(ORIS\)](#), funded by the Slovenian Research Agency. Results of the project will be included in one of the chapters of the book.

10. Contact

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