

## **Body/Sex/Work: Exploring the diversification of sexual and corporeal labour**

Stream at the International Labour Process Conference, Leeds University, 2011

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Sex and the body have traditionally been hidden in analyses of work, despite the centrality of the body to the labour process. Yet both sexuality and the body are increasingly predominant themes in contemporary labour processes of late capitalism, a fact also reflected in the research that seeks to understand them. This is not only true in the sex industry, which has been argued to be mainstreaming and diversifying as a space of work, but across diverse forms of labour. As such, critical investigations of sexuality as labour, within and beyond the sex industry, have demonstrated the ways in which sex is increasingly central to multifarious forms of work (Wolkowitz 2006; Brewis and Linstead 2000; Adkins 1996; Boris et al. 2010). Yet despite considerable progression and advancements in both fields of study, the two have rarely been in sustained and in-depth dialogue with each other.

In order to generate such a dialogue, the objectives of this stream are to explore the intersection of sexuality, the body, gender and work in contemporary labour processes. We hope to attract papers which not only reflect on what has been gone before, but attempt to reach beyond political and theoretical binaries and bring fresh ideas to this forum, which would concentrate on understanding the lived experiences of those whose work implies or necessitates sex and the implications of this for their experiences of work and ability to organise. In this vein, we use the term 'sex worker' in the broadest sense, in order to incorporate, contrast and compare a plethora of jobs and labour processes that rely on direct, indirect or suggested sex, sexualisation, sexual labour and/or sex work. We welcome papers which comment on, or present empirical data on the ways in which sex forms part of diverse economies across the legal, illegal, 'formal' 'grey' and 'informal' arenas of labour and the impact of the contexts and legislative contexts in which they are performed. Additionally, papers which explore the practical and theoretical implications of the putative 'non-standard' or 'atypical' nature of these forms of work would also offer interesting contributions to the discussion.

This stream intends to be broad in order to appeal to those working across the spectrum of disciplines whose work crosses over in seeking to understand these intersections. This stream will particularly welcome papers that address any of the following:

- Theoretical and critical advancements in the idea of 'sex as work' and 'body as work'
- The social division of sexual and bodily labour
- Investigations into the labour processes of sexuality/sex as labour
- Comparative work which examines these forms of labour or contrasts them with others
- Regulation, sex and labour process
- Informal/formal economies of sexual labour
- Critical perspectives on sex and the body in the 'feminisation of labour'
- Migration sexual labour and employment status
- Unionisation, representation and support services
- Emotional labour, body work and sexuality
- Critical policy evaluations of law/policy which affects sex workers

The Conference:

The Annual International Labour Process Conference is a leading conference on work and employment. It brings together academics and policy makers from the sociology of work and employment, labour studies, business and management, human resource management, industrial relations, organization studies and a range of other disciplines. Selections of conference papers are published in edited books, with twenty now published. Abstracts for the stream should be between 350-500 words and can be either theoretical and/or empirical. Abstract contents should enable the referees to determine what issue, development or problem is being investigated, how it is investigated, what the findings are and what contribution is being made to knowledge and understanding in the field.

ILPC2011 Conference Organizers:

Dr Daniel Muzio  
Dr Jennifer Tomlinson  
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