

Agriculture and migration in the European Union

International seminar – University of Bergamo (Italy), 24-25 October 2013

Department of Human and Social Science

An event organized in collaboration with *l'ORA - Osservatorio sui Segni del Tempo*, University of Bergamo

Room: Sala Riunioni, Piazza Rosate 2, third floor (Bergamo, Città alta)

El Ejido (Andalusia, Spain), February 2000: around sixty Moroccan greenhouse workers are injured during three days of race riots.

Morecambe Bay (Lancashire, UK), February 2004: 23 Chinese cockle pickers, under contract to a Chinese gangmaster, are drowned by an incoming tide.

Poscros (Bouches-du-Rhône, France), July 2005: 300 Moroccan, Tunisian, and Chinese seasonal workers go on strike to demand unpaid wages and better housing and employment conditions.

Rosarno (Calabria, Italy), January 2010: following the wounding of three Sub-Saharan African orange pickers, violent riots break out between immigrants and the local population.

Nardò (Apulia, Italy), August 2011: hundreds of Tunisian and West African watermelon and tomato pickers go on a two-week strike against their employers and *caporali*.

Manolada (Peloponnese, Greece), April 2013: about 25 Bangladeshi strawberry pickers are shot by their Greek supervisors, after they demand unpaid wages.

These conflicts and tragedies – the most famous in a long list of events that have occurred over the last fifteen years in rural areas across the European Union – have revealed the often dramatic living and working conditions of hundreds of thousands migrant agricultural workers. The events have stimulated a series of reports, inquiries, research projects as well as interventions by activists. The purpose of this seminar is to gather researchers from different disciplines and countries, as well as activists, farmworkers and peasants.

Program

Thursday, 24 October

13.45, Welcome, Giuseppe Bertagna, Head Department of Human and Social Sciences

14.00, Introductory remarks, Domenico Perrotta (University of Bergamo)

14.30-16.30, Session I: Patterns of mobility in rural areas of EU

(chair: Simona Tersigni, University of Paris Ouest-Nanterre, Sophiapol)

- Apostolos Papadopoulos, Loukia-Maria Fratsea (Hapokopio University, Athens), Migrant labour and precarious employment in agriculture: reflections on new employment relations in rural Greece
- Vanessa Azzeruoli (University of Padua), The (sacred) cows' business. Narratives and practices of an "Ethnicized niche work": the Indian Punjab *bergamini* in the Pianura Padana.
- Chantal Crenn (Université de Bordeaux), Eternels saisonniers ou combinards ? : Les ouvriers agricoles « arabes » des vignobles bordelais
- Romain Filhol (Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée), Spécificités de la province de Caserta au sein de la « roue saisonnière » des travailleurs agricoles migrants du Mezzogiorno

16.30-17.00, Coffee break

17.00-19.00, Session II: Agricultural labour markets

(chair: Giovanna Fullin, University of Milano Bicocca)

- Emmanuelle Hellio (University of Nice), “We don’t have women in boxes”: channelling seasonal mobility of women farm workers in Andalusia
- Gennaro Avallone (University of Salerno), Making history. Labour market and migrant workers in Piana del Sele’s agriculture (Campania, Italy)
- Pamela Robinson (University of Birmingham), Strawberry fields forever: Supermarkets rule and consumers benefit, whilst migrant workers adapt to their employment situation, but does it have to be this way?
- Héloïse Claudon, Julie Rouan (Confédération Paysanne), Providing services or subcontracting labour? Two cases of the European trend of private intermediation, in Germany and Italy

Friday, 25 October

9.00-11.00, Session III: Migrant labour in agro-industrial supply-chains

(chair: Alessandra Corrado, University of Calabria)

- Anna Mary Garrapa (University of Milano Bicocca), “*Just in time*” immigrants. The work of seasonal harvesting by sub-Saharan Africans in the commercial chain of citrus products in the Piana of Gioia Tauro
- Carlos De Castro (University Autónoma de Madrid), with Elena Gadea, Andrés Pedreño, Marta Latorre (University of Murcia), Social sustainability and agricultural workers in agro-food industry in the region of Murcia
- Kaveri Qureshi (University of Oxford), Ben Rogaly (University of Sussex), “That’s where my perceptions of it all were shattered”: oral histories of food sector employment in an English city region
- Domenico Perrotta (University of Bergamo), The ghetto and the district. A qualitative comparison between processing tomato supply chains in Southern and Northern Italy

11.00-11.30, Coffee break

11.30-13.30, Session IV: Conflicts and forms of resistance

(chair: Devi Sacchetto, University of Padua)

- Irene Peano (University of Bologna), Emerging subjectivities in the space of exception: Affective composition and militancy of and with migrants in contemporary Italy
- Simona Tersigni (University of Paris Ouest-Nanterre, Sophiapol), Resistance, ambivalence and agency of foreign workers in Brittany slaughterhouses
- Valeria Piro (University of Milan), Giuliana Sanò (University of Messina), Bodies at Work or Bodies’ Work? The Case of Day Laborers in Vittoria (Sicily)
- Francesco Saverio Caruso (University of Calabria), Migrant farmworkers in Southern Italy between crisis and riots: from Gramsci to the revolts of Castel Volturno and Rosarno

13.30-15.00 – Lunch break

15.00-17.00, Roundtable: Research and practices of militant intervention

(chair: Federica Sossi, University of Bergamo)

Nicolas Duntze (Confédération Paysanne, France), Fabrizio Garbarino (Associazione Rurale Italiana), Network Campagne in lotta (Italy), Marco Paggi (Associazione Studi Giuridici sull’Immigrazione, Italy), Collectif pour la défense des travailleurs étrangers dans l’agriculture des Bouches-du-Rhône (*to be confirmed*).

Seminar Languages: English and French