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**Labour relations and capitalist accumulation in India**

Chair: Barbara Benedetti, Chiara Mariotti

One of the most striking and dysfunctional features of the current unfolding of capitalist development in India is its inability to securely and productively employ the expanding Indian labour force. This inability is manifested in the existence of a massive informal sector spanning from rural to urban areas and in the reproduction of casual arrangements. These labour arrangements are to a large extent regulated by non-market institutions (such as caste, ethnicity, religion and gender) which are underpinned by unequal power relations and can be configured as “sites of relationships of control over people” (Harriss-White 1999: 271). Moreover, they are accompanied by and reflected in a fragmented landscape of grassroots movements and social groups opposing and coping with the different forms assumed by capitalist accumulation in the country.

Labour relations and labour arrangements in India are object of plentiful research, yet rarely these are investigated in relation to the specific features assumed by capitalist accumulation in the country. Therefore, the investigation of whither labour in India must beg the question of “what is capitalism in India” , and explicitly link the study of labour to the study of capital. Equally important is exploring the relations between the different patterns assumed by capital accumulation and the varied forms of resistance to these patterns.

It is on these grounds that this panel seeks contributions which explore labour dynamics in India in general. While particularly encouraging papers which

investigate how these labour dynamics stand in relations to patterns of capital accumulation and forms of resistance to it, we are interested in all the possible declinations that this relationship can take and do not preclude contributions that investigate it in other countries.

A non-exclusive list of the topics of interest includes:

- the study of capitalistic and labour dynamics in urban centres;
- the fragmentation of capital and its impact on labour and grassroots movements;
- state-specific trajectories of capitalist accumulation and their impact on labour,
- circulation of labour, labour migration and capitalist exploitation;
- primitive accumulation and accumulation by dispossession;
- Special Economic Zones and the grassroots resistance

Abstracts of papers (max. 300 words) should be sent to Barbara Benedetti (barbara\_ben2002@yahoo.it) or Chiara Mattiotti (mariottichiara@gmail.com) by the 10th of February 2013. For more information about the conference go to: <http://iippe.org/wp/>