

## In Front of the Factory Cinematic Spaces of Labour

“Most narrative films take place in that part of life where work has been left behind.” Harun Farocki’s condemnation of cinema’s unwillingness to represent labour finds echoes in present-day political discussions about the struggles and persistent invisibility of labour in public space. Undocumented labour, the weakening of union organizing, and the decoupling of work from physical space in the era of the Internet, are phenomena that have irreversibly altered everyday life. At the same time, a new vocabulary capturing the expansions of labour – affective labour, care work, women’s work, immaterial and precarious labour – has made it possible to deepen our understanding of what ought to be considered as labour and where this labour happens. In the same vein, a growing number of filmmakers are showing a commitment to render the spaces where work takes place today visible again. This conference will tackle the historically shifting relationship between cinema and the representation of labour spaces and will reflect on the renewed attention to the workspace in today’s art cinema and documentary production.

With

Saima Akhtar  
Andreas Bunte  
Pedro Costa  
Mona Damluji  
Daniel Eisenberg  
Alex Gerbaulet  
Mantas Kvedaravicius  
Britta Lange  
Ewa Mazierska  
Elena Pollacchi  
Karl Schoonover

This event is a cooperation between  
ICI Berlin, Forum Transregionale Studien,  
Irmgard Coninx Stiftung, ACUD Kino,  
and re:work.

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INTERNATIONALES GESELLSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTLICHES FORUM FÜR  
ARBEIT UND LEBENSLEBEN IN GLOBALEGESCHICHTLICHER PERSPEKTIVE  
Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History

Forum  
Transregionale  
Studien

**ACUDKINO**

**ici**  
KULTURLABOR  
BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL INQUIRY

**International  
Conference**

# In Front of the Factory Cinematic Spaces of Labour

**Organised by Saima Akhtar,  
Rosa Barotsi, Clio Nicastro**

The screenings will take place  
at the cinema ACUD, Veteranenstrasse 21, 10119 Berlin.  
in English

**26-27 May 2016  
ICI Berlin**

## Programme

THURSDAY – 26 MAY 2016

10:30 Morning coffee  
11:00 Introduction

11:15 – 13:15 Panel I: GEOGRAPHIES OF EVERYDAY LABOUR

**Karl Schoonover** (University of Warwick)

Neorealism's Casualisation of Labour in Time

**Ewa Mazierska** (University of Central Lancashire)

Cleaners in Contemporary Cinema

**Elena Pollacchi** (Stockholm University)

Wang Bing's Shared Spaces of Labour:

A Counter-narrative of the China Dream

13:15 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 17:00 Panel II: CINEMATIC LABOUR HISTORIES

**Britta Lange** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Work in the Field – Fieldwork.

Early Cinematic Representations of Handicraft and Farming

**Mona Damluji** (Stanford University)

Oil Infrastructure and the Sight/Site of Labour

**Saima Akhtar** (Forum Transregionale Studien/ICI Berlin)

Labour and the Mass-Production of Fordist Commercial Images

17:00 – 18:00 Coffee break

18.30 – 21.15 EVENING SCREENING and Q&A at ACUD Kino

**Andreas Bunte** (Academy of Fine Art-Oslo)

Two Films about Pressure (2013)

**Daniel Eisenberg** (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

The Unstable Object II, excerpts, (in progress, 2016)

**Alex Gerbaulet** (Berlin)

Schicht (2015)

**Mantas Kvedaravicius** (Vilnius University)

Mariupolis (2016)

FRIDAY – 27 MAY 2016

14:00 Welcome coffee

14:30 – 16:30 Panel III: FILM AND MAKING LABOUR

**Mantas Kvedaravicius** (Vilnius University)

Cut Outs, or Belaboring the Negative:

Note on a Film in the Precarious Zone

**Daniel Eisenberg** (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

Enacting Labor – A Quandary for makers...

**Andreas Bunte** (Academy of Fine Art – Oslo)

Safe Disassembly

16:30 – 18:30 RECEPTION

19:00 – 22:00 EVENING SCREENING AND  
CLOSING CONVERSATION at ACUD Kino

**Pedro Costa** (Portugal)

Horse Money (2014, 105 min)

The screenings will take place at the cinema ACUD,  
Veteranenstrasse 21, 10119 Berlin.