

PECO 5501 - Socio-Geographic and Intersectional Perspectives on Work and Labour

Prof Mark Thomas

May 07, 2018 to Jun 19, 2018

Days: Tue Thu

Time: 17:35 - 20:25

Room TBA

Course Description

Over the past several decades, work has been radically restructured socio-geographically, with the changing spatial distribution of work linked to changes in the social organization of labour processes and labour markets. At the same time, 'labour' - workers and unions - as agents in the 'new economy' are facing strategic and structural crises stemming from the reorganization of work, the hidden/invisible nature of new forms of work, and the absence of space for labour in public debates about solutions for economic recovery. This course develops a socio-geographic perspective to study the organization of work in contemporary labour markets in this context of crisis. With an intersectional lens, the course explores the ways in which workplaces and labour markets are organized through intersecting relations of class, race, gender, citizenship status, and ability, and are geographically contextualized by place, space and scale.

Building on scholarship in labour geography and the sociology of work, the course begins by examining the organization of work in contemporary capitalism, focusing on the organization of labour processes, managerial strategies of control, connections between the workplace and the household, and patterns of labour market segmentation. The course also explores work and labour markets in a global context, examining themes of globalization, precarious employment, migrant labour, and the impacts of new technologies. Finally, the course considers the emergence of new forms of labour regulation and new workers' movements that aim to address current conditions of precariousness, insecurity, and crisis generated through the reorganization of work.