Work and Equalities Institute Seminar

The Formation of Worker Collectivism among Migrant Workers in Denmark, Germany, and the UK

Speaker: Dr Aleksandra Markovic (University of Aalborg)

Date: Monday 12 February 2024

Time: 12:00 - 13:00

Room: AMBS 3.008

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98299867742>
Passcode: 090207

Refreshments will be available from 11:45

**Abstract**

The presentation will outline the primary objectives and challenges of the research project "The formation of worker collectivism among migrant workers in Denmark, Germany and the UK" and share some preliminary results. The central inquiry of the research is: When and under what conditions do migrant workers define their labour market interests (and the means to achieve these) in collective rather than individual terms? The primary goal is to identify instances where migrant workers, collectively, have taken action to enhance their working conditions or other aspects of their work life.

The project adopts a comparative approach, concentrating on Denmark, Germany, and the UK. Methodologically, the research involved in-depth qualitative interviews with migrants, along with consultations with experts and representatives from organizations such as unions, employer associations, and NGOs. The research in the UK predominantly focuses on agricultural migrant workers and the presentation will include a case study detailing the wildcat strike initiated by Latin American agricultural seasonal workers at Haygrove Farm in Herefordshire, England, in July 2023.

**About the speaker**

Dr Markovics has studied and researched various aspects of society from different sub-fields of sociology, both in academic and non-academic areas. Her research interests are broad but centred around the following topics: social inequality and stratification, political sociology, labour market, and migration.

The main objectives of her Ph.D. thesis have been directed toward determining whether the precariat could be viewed as a separate class or stratum and discovering potentially specific ideologies that could be linked to the precariat in Serbia. She showed that precarity per se is still not sufficiently distinctive in the labour market and does not represent a key determinant of structuring society.

Aleksandra is a researcher within the project "The formation of worker collectivism among migrant workers in Denmark, Germany and the UK" (Aalborg University, Denmark). She has been a visiting researcher at the University of Manchester, researching migrants' collectivist perceptions, norms, and labour market strategies to improve their working life.