

John Villiers Abstract for 11th GLU Conference Johannesburg, 2016

Unemployment and neoliberalism in the in post 2008 Republic of Ireland

This paper is about unemployment in the Republic of Ireland in the context of neoliberal policy and practice. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the neoliberal policies and practices of the Department of Social Protection (DSP), the Irish state agency which supports unemployed people, and to suggest instead labour-oriented, collective approaches to unemployment in Ireland.

This paper has three sections. In section one, there will be an account of the political and economic context for unemployment in Ireland since the 2008 economic crisis including changes to DSP policy in supporting unemployed people. The second section will discuss the author's ethnographic data while an unemployed client of the DSP. Finally, the third section will discuss possible labour oriented, collective approaches to unemployment with reference to international and historical examples including organising, cooperatives and guaranteed income.