

Minutes: GLU ISC meeting - Friday, 30th of April, 2pm CET

Participants:

Steering committee members

1. Mark Anner (Penn State, Chair)
2. Hugo Dias (UNICAMP, Deputy Chair)
3. Clair Ruppert (CUT, Deputy Chair)
4. Praveen Jha (JNU)
5. Carolin Vollmann (DGB)
6. Hugo Dias (UNICAMP)
7. Mirko Herberg (FES)
8. Michelle Williams (Wits University)
9. Christoph Scherrer (ICDD/Kassel University)
10. Alfred Mafuleka/Babsy Nhlapo (Cosatu)
11. Thomas Franco (AIBOC India)
12. Jeremy Anderson (ITF, GUF representative)

Observers and Associate fellows

1. Nicolas Pons-Vignon (SUPSI, observer)
2. Frank Hoffer (associate fellow)
3. Edlira Xhafa (GLU Online Academy, observer)
4. Aleksandra Draganic (ICDD/Kassel University, observer)
5. Uma Rani Amara (ILO Research Department, Associate fellow)
6. Harald Kröck (GLU Alumni Coordinator)
7. Simone Buckel (ICDD/Kassel University)
8. Romke Buchholz (ICDD/Kassel University, assistant)

1) GLU Conference in Penn State (Call for Papers attached)

New date is confirmed with AFL-CIO for the use of their building in Washington DC. Afterwards relocation to Penn State for the Alumni School.

Dates:

March 30-April 1, GLU Conference, DC

April 2: SC meeting, DC

April 3: trip to Penn State

April 4-10, Alumni School, Penn State

Comments, Questions, Reflections:

- Proactive activity for the labour side: who should be in the room/invited?
- Michelle: Why is climate justice together with working conditions?
- It should be thought early about additional meetings that can take place at that time
- Frank: Early on planning of side-events, research groups, initiatives since this is difficult during the conference → plan a day earlier for people to come
- Full Wednesday of side-events?

- Mirko and Jeremy will coordinate stream 3 for the conference, Nicolas will provide contact to Jayati Gosh
- ➔ The CfP will be circulated in one or two weeks

2) Migration Workshop report and follow-up meeting with OSF

Website with videos of plenaries and report on working groups:

<https://onward.reshapingwork.net/migration-and-trade-unions-migrant-labour-struggles-and-challenges-for-organising/>

Nicolas and Simone gave a brief review of the learnings and outcomes of the event:

- High Learning Curve: Less travel organising due to the online event, therefore more time for content
- A Solid group of people stayed during the whole conference. A high but (for an online event) not unusual number of people who registered did eventually not participate in the conference
- Rich discussions in Working Groups that were brought together in the closing session
- Close work with reshaping work onwards: Mostly positive experience: but disappointing report that did not cover the scope of the event. Therefore an additional report on the working groups was done by the ICDD.
- Great feedback from the OSF; there will be a follow-up meeting with the organizing group consisting of OSF, FES and GLU.
- Link to the Event website will be circulated via GLU channels and linked on the GLU Website

A follow-up meeting with the OSF for future collaboration is being planned for end of May. A pre-meeting was suggested to discuss the coming meeting with the OSF and brainstorm financial needs of the GLU.

Some suggestions were: Scholarships for Southern partners is of high interest; also potential funding to substitute the missing ICDD funding for organizing the network; funding for coordination of the network; funding of bigger GLU events (e.g. conference, Alumni activities)

3) Regular newsletter for updates in the network

At the preparation meeting for this ISC meeting the idea emerged to have a regular newsletter for the network to report on what is happening and on new activities. The proposal is to have a bimonthly update that is circulated within the network.

It was agreed that this is a useful tool. Simone will take this up as part of the GLU Network coordination.

From this proposal also the idea arose that it would be great to have a regular GLU newsletter that can be shared with a wider public.

It was agreed that:

- Mark and Simone will develop a draft concept
- The newsletter should be published every 3 months
- Open question is funding for maintaining the newsletter

4) Engage Latin America

The colleagues from Brazil and Argentina will be taking up the planning for the ENGAGE programme again. A meeting for the 2nd half of May is planned to update the proposal. The start of ENGAGE is aimed for the 2nd semester in 2022.

The new contact to the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata in Argentina can also be fruitful for the development and roll-out of the ENGAGE programme.

5) Report from GLU Online Academy

The Online Academy is on track with implementing the plan of activities presented to the SC last year. Since January, it has worked in three main areas:

1) The Global Team of Online Tutors and Local Trainers (GTTT): nearly 60 trainer from around 25 countries, mainly GLU alumni. The Team was used to pilot the course "Just and Green: Labour's Ecological Question" and provide extensive feedback on the content and methods for online education. It has also received training on interactive methods for online education and for organising local workshops around themes of the GLU online courses. The main objective of the GTTT is to complement online education with face-to-face local activities as well as to contextualise the more general/global debates of the online courses.

2) "Just and Green: Labour's Ecological Question": following the feedback from the GTTT, this online course was improved substantially, including the production of five new video lectures. It was launched in mid-April and it has currently over 550 participants. The GTTT members are organising local activities (either face-to-face or online) on topics related to the course.

3) "Regulating Global Supply Chains": the course is now in the process of developing the scripts and recording the video lectures. There has been an attempt to expand the network of experts. Thus, the course includes speakers from Ghana TUC, Cornell University, University of Auckland, ECLAC, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Center for Budget and Governance Accountability and Center for International Corporate Accountability.

6) GLI Project – trade union history (cf. draft attached)

The Global Labour Institute (GLI) has started a project on writing a popular history of the Trade Union Movement. It started with a focus on the British trade union movement and has now developed into the idea to write a global history of the trade union movement. It is still a work in progress and input is very welcome.

It was criticised that the text that has been so far produced is very Eurocentric and is neglecting many labour struggles from around the globe.

The proposal for the GLU is to get engaged in this project also with a perspective of producing a MOOC which can then be used for the different GLU programmes.

Another positive aspect was seen in the fact that many GUFs are engaged in the GLI and that could be a good opportunity to engage more with the GUFs.

A few things were suggested:

- A subcommittee should be formed of GLU people who want to get engaged in this project: Mirko, Nicolas, Thomas, Clair, Hugo, Alfred and Edlira will be part of this subcommittee; additionally Peter Rossman (former IUF) shall be invited to join
- Each GLU campus should think about if they want to get involved and contribute input from their respective contexts to broaden the scope of the narrative
- Since the conclusion of the book is still open the next GLU conference could be a space to discuss this;
- Nicolas will ask the GLI to send an introduction of the GLI so everybody has a better understanding of what the GLI is

7) Miscellaneous

a) Brief report from the different campuses:

1. Praveen/JNU: The pandemic brings a lot of difficulties: Missing applications the last two years; exceptional difficulties, but we cannot do anything about it at the moment; some financial support was provided with scholarships that Christoph helped to organize;

2. Michelle/Wits: 2020 – pleasantly surprised all students finished and graduated. 2021 quite a few applications; need of a no-cost-extension since money could not be used. Doing better than anticipated; their coordinator Warren was regularly checking up on the students so to keep them engaged – tutor/mentor/adviser approach – which proved to be very effective;

3. Christoph & Aleks/Germany: Returning to normal: Teaching in Kassel, optimistic that Berlin will stay on board despite the current financial insecurity regarding the funding of the summer term 2022; For the students it's alienating to be in a foreign country and being taught only online; what was missing is having more informal chances to meet; hope to start normally in the fall; Erasmus + scholarships for JNU and WITS; 2 professorships at Kassel; one needs to consider discussing how to gather means and possibilities for more solidarity (reference to the discussion about having more and more students who are threatened in their home countries due to their TU activities); issues of the students: Challenging to coordinate the students: Students are now in Berlin; enough qualified applicants for the next year, more from the Global North than usual;

4. Hugo/Unicamp: University is closed since March 2020; small classes, reduced applications, internet connectivity problems; finding solutions for asynchronous teaching and learning

5. Mark/Penn State: Everyone got there by December/January except one; worries for next year; university doesn't allow for remote teaching from August on when the next group starts; Mark will be on sabbatical from July 2021 and Elaine Hui will be the acting director of the programme; Jana Silverman will be the Center postdoctoral scholar for the year and will be assisting with the organisation of the GLU conference;

b) New project for Belarus trade unionists:

Frank has acquired funds for a support programme for capacity building for trade unions under authoritarian regimes. The programme will support trade unionists from Belarus to participate in the GLU MA programme and to build a trade union competence center.

c) What is the state with the ITF scholarship funding for the GLU programmes:

The funding was advertised in last year's calls for India and Wits and recently for Unicamp to see if eligible candidates have applied. Next 2 programmes are Penn State and Germany.

Simone will collect information on the funding that has taken place so far and if there are any further nominations.

d) associate memberships:

- associate membership suggestion: Prof. Nicolas Pons-Vignon, SUPSI Switzerland

Unanimous decision – Glad to have him in the network

- associate membership suggestion: SASK Finland

SASK is the trade union international solidarity center of Finland and has been collaborating with Wits. The contact was established via FES. SASK is doing a lot of collaboration projects in the Global South and has now included Wits in big grant proposal to the Finish government for several years. In the future SASK could also become a potential source for funding for India and Brazil. And for the European perspective it is good to expand the network in Europe.

Consensus decision to offer SASK associate membership in the GLU

SASK shall be invited to the next GLU conference

Michelle and Mark will send a letter to SASK about the associate membership.

e) Brief update on Alumni workshop in Ghana:

DAAD grant for regional Alumni workshops in Ghana in 2021 and in Brazil in 2022 was obtained.

The workshop in Ghana is scheduled for November. However, it is not clear yet whether it will be possible to have it face-to-face. Will be decided over the next few months. Further information will follow soon.