



Annual International Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday, March 30th, 2019
9am – 4pm
HWR Berlin, House C, room 91

Participants:

Steering committee members

1. Christoph Scherrer (ICDD/Kassel University, Chair)
2. Praveen Jha (JNU, Deputy Chair)
3. Antonio Lisboa/Clair Ruppert (CUT, Deputy Chair)
4. Michelle Williams (WITS University, Chair) – via skype
5. Martina Sproll (Berlin School of Economics and Law)
6. Jeremy Anderson (ITF, GUF representative)
7. Hugo Dias (UNICAMP)
8. Mirko Herberg (FES)
9. Archana Prasad (JNU)
10. Mark Anner (Penn State University)
11. Bhabhali Nhaplo (Cosatu)
12. Uma Rani (ILO Research Department) – via skype
13. Thomas Franco (AIBOC India)
14. Joachim Beerhorst (IGMetall)
15. Carolin Vollmann (DGB)

Observers and Associate fellows

16. Nicolas Pons-Vignon (WITS University, observer)
17. Stefanie Lorenzen (Berlin School of Economics and Law, observer)
18. Frank Hoffer (ACT, associate fellow)
19. Ana Paula Melli (CUT, observer)
20. Anthony Baah (ITUC Africa, observer)
21. Mary Bellman (Penn State University, Observer)
22. Manuel Rosado (Penn State University, Observer)
23. Hansjörg Herr (Berlin School of Economics and Law, observer)
24. Simone Buckel (ICDD, Observer)
25. Rhea Chatterjee (ITF, Observer)
26. Uma Rani (ILO Research Department, Associate fellow)
27. Dagmar Hettterscheidt (ICDD, observer)
28. Nuhu Dadi (GLU Alumni, observer)
29. David O'Connell (GLU Alumni, observer)
30. Luis Campos (GLU Alumni, observer)
31. Harald Kröck (GLU Alumni Coordinator, observer)
32. Edlira Xhafa (GLU Alumni, observer)
33. Tim Pringle (SOAS, observer)
34. Alfred Angula (Cosatu, observer)
35. Julia Franz (HWR, observer)
36. Pravin Sinha (FES India, observer)

37. Anselmo dos Santos (Unicamp, observer)
38. Stefanie Lorenzen (HWR, observer)
39. Paulo Molinaro (Penn State, observer)
40. Cathy ?? Penn State, observer
41. Rebecca ?? Penn State, observer
42. Gaye Yilmaz (GLU Alumni, observer)

1. Welcome

2. Introductions

3. Update on recent development and new challenges at the different campuses

A written report has been circulated. Discussion points have been integrated in this agenda.

4. Steering Committee: Chair

In January 2019, Christoph Scherrer has taken over as chair. Praveen Jha is Deputy Chair and CUT is Trade Union Deputy Chair. Mark Anner will become Praveen's deputy in 2020 and chair in 2021.

5. Members' International Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Trade unions and the Universities of the GLU partners, a representative of the Global Unions, the ILO and the FES; an Alumni Representative has Observer Status.

Changes: Jeremy Anderson is replacing Henny Holdcroft as the new GUF representative

6. Fund Raising

Update of fund raising initiatives—everyone is collectively responsible for this.

Positive news:

Elmar Altvater fund raised 30.000 Euros for scholarships. This secures a few scholarships for 3 years for Brazil and Germany.

Sue Ledwith could reclaim money from Ruskin -15.000€. It will go to the GLU association for 2 scholarships – 1 for Brazil and 1 for Wits. Sue wants to partake in the selection; Scholarships should be for female students. The campuses should suggest feasible candidates to Sue.

Kassel submitted grant proposals for Erasmus+. The decision is still pending. If granted some small grants are available for exchange with Kassel.

Open Society Foundation:

The OSF is considering to start a long term collaboration with the GLU but it is not clear yet. Christoph has made good experiences with them at other MA programme. But funding for the Global Labour Column should not come from the OSF.

A proposal was submitted to the OSF with different GLU parts (MOOCs, Alumni, scholarships, etc.). We will probably know more in June.

Mirko: OSF wants to engage more with the labour movement, he had a good impression of them getting serious.

Other funding possibilities from foundations:

Uma Rani: Julit foundation (family money) has also interest in labour issues. Uma will get the contacts.

Michelle Williams: Mellon foundation has also connection to labour. Should be checked out by Penn State/Kassel/Berlin.

ICDD funding:

ICDD funding is ending 2019. There might be a phasing out period with less money. Exceed as a funding programme will continue but with new centers. ICDD could continue as a senior partner with new center. Christoph is in contact with two professors who do labour research and who are thinking about submitting an application. If successful ICDD can provide support – phasing out money would then be spent mostly on Alumni.

JNU: The tuition fees are increasing, especially for international students. Archana proposes that the Steering Committee should write a letter of concern to the university about rising fees. This was not seen as a promising endeavour as long as Modi government is in place.

Wits receives postgraduate scholarships from public sector union (SCETA). Due to lack of funding there are very few international students in the programme. Babsi is trying to raise funds with Cosatu. Funding for nationals is not a problem but funds for internationals are difficult to obtain.

Carolin – DGB funds:

Obtaining funds via the DGB did not work that well the past 2 years because funding was very focused on the textile sector. The DGB Bildungswerk (DGB BW) struggled to have the resources to accommodate little projects.

Just recently the continuation of the funding was confirmed. It will be more open and has a clear focus on supply chains and capacity building. In the next 6 months there will be more debates about what projects can be funded. There will be funding for a coordination person who can go around the GLU to see what could be funded. Funding for Germany and German programmes is not possible. Funding for the GLC is not entirely off the table. Carolin will bring it up again, but it is not clear yet.

Penn State has funding for 9 students. Since most foundations don't want to fund scholarships the students are included as research assistants and this way they can be funded by foundations. Funding for the labour rights indicators will be more substantial with the ILO collaboration.

Online Academy: The GLU received funding from the DGB BW to produce a MOOC in Bangla. In a second project the GLU receives funding for the updating of GSC MOOC and for the launching of the Bangla MOOC.

Funding application for the GLU Online Master is in the making.

HWR: The situation at the HWR is very difficult because there is currently no funding to run the LPG in Berlin. Therefore the next intake will fully take place in Kassel. Future is quite unclear because it is very difficult to get government funding.

Martina is optimistic about general GLU funding but pessimistic about funding for the university programme. Christoph is optimistic that solutions will be found.

Unicamp: Scholarships have been coming from CUT, ICDD and Elmar Altvater fund. There are no government scholarships anymore for international students. DGB BW is open to support some activities (e.g. scholarships). This might be difficult though if there is overlap with FES funding.

Franko: AIBOC is funding a PhD student at JNU and is talking about funding more in the future. Also support for students for summer internships is given. A 6 month study by a MA student will be released as a book. Franko wants to continue that kind of support.

A seminar with banking unions was held. With funding from the ICDD 2 people could be invited from Malaysia to have an international gathering.

Jeremy: ITF has committed to give a scholarship of 10.000 pounds. It has to be awarded to ITF affiliates. He is also working on encouraging other GUFs to also give scholarships. Jeremy should be informed about already existing scholarships from GUFs.

A table to keep track of all scholarships should be created to avoid overlap of funding applications from the different programmes.

The matching of students to scholarships is sometimes difficult – ITF and GUFs should inform their affiliates about the scholarships and therewith facilitate outreach and matching.

Anthony Baah: ITUC Africa could raise some funds and some African Trade Union Centers.

7. Faculty exchange

How can the faculty exchange esp. South-South be strengthened?

In the following years it will be more difficult with the ending of the ICDD funding.

To what extent have universities funds for faculty exchange?

Unicamp: Mariano Laplane is responsible for it. There are funds from the university towards English programmes because the university wants to foster internationalisation. The colleagues at UNICAMP will pay more attention to these possibilities. Also there is high interest in having scholars from Africa and Asia in Unicamp. The faculty is interested and willing to participate in exchange if funding is available.

JNU used to have some travel grants but not anymore.

Penn State: There is no special programme to fund guest lecturers (for the actual mobility) but the infrastructure to host guest scientists is no problem.

8. Recruiting students

Penn State: The number of applications is declining and often students don't fulfil requirements. How can outreach be increased?

Advertise through GLC - has huge outreach

Advertisement in MOOCs

JNU: The International council for cultural relations would support up to 6 students in the Delhi programme. So far it has not been taken up. The application form is available on the GLU website. Christoph suggests reaching out to Asian unions and advertising the possibility on a regional level. Interest from there exists. A brochure should be sent around to recruit students from other Asian countries.

Wits has around 30 applications. Recruiting is not a problem, the problem is to have enough funding available.

Alfred: The perception of TU leaders of GLU graduates has to be looked at. Often they have difficulties when going back to their unions.

Michelle: SA TUs sometimes find Alumni a threat to the leadership.

The German programme has around 60 applications on average (around 35-40 are qualified).

Gaye: The Turkish Alumni regularly translate GLC articles into Turkish. The website link is being sent to TUs and NGOs and generates many reactions. They will continue to advertise the GLU programmes.

9. Trade Union Expectations – Claire and Jeremy

What do the unions want from the GLU?

Claire and Jeremy have spoken to GUFs + some national centers and are still in the process of completing the research. But there are some initial ideas:

a) To conduct a deeper questionnaire to gather more feedback and input

b) To develop a proposal towards global council of unions to cooperate with GLU in 4 areas (council is chaired by ITF)

- 1) Training and education
- 2) Internships
- 3) Conferences
- 4) research

c) 2 topics that would be of interest to the GUFs

1) Formulating alternative to global economic model – GUFs do more than just criticising existing institutions

2) New ideas and thinking about formats of intervention – e.g. critique of the world report last year was good

Christoph: GLU could put out a call for a workshop

Edlira: A research on alternatives was conducted by Alumni 2010 to 2012 and there is an interest to continue

Carolin: There is a lot of potential in the research of Latin America around the issue of alternatives

Mirko: It would be important to link such a debate up to different movements. What do we talk about? Good capitalism or overcoming capitalism? Would be important to get mandate from labour movement to do research etc. in that direction.

Hansjörg and Edlira will take up lead in following up with the GLU research on alternatives to the economic model.

Mirko: It would also be important to create space for discussions of current onslaughts of extremism.

Mark will discuss it with Penn State team whether it could be topic for next conference. Also Wits will discuss it in SWOP, and CUT and Unicamp take it up.

d) Global strategic research summer school

The ITF organizes a one-week summer school on strategic research but so far very focused on North America. It could be an idea to organize a summer school on strategic research – how to apply strategic research model.

Challenge is though how to integrate students after they have done the course. Also it is a very intense workshop that requires very committed participants.

Christoph: There might be possibilities to apply for grants – e.g. DAAD Alumni programme

Edlira: It would be very helpful for the organizing of garment workers because it is difficult to map garment sector. Having the knowledge or having a network of people to tap into would be great.

Mark: It is great idea to offer skill training on strategic research to the broader labour movement

Martina: The value chains course in LPG has some elements. There is a workshop in which students reconstruct value chains. The IGMetall is funding the course.

Mark and Jeremy will take the lead in following up with this idea.

Kassel will look into possibilities to apply for grants (DAAD Alumni programme).

e) Internships

Longer internships – 6 to 8 months – would be more beneficial for students and GUFs. Must not be a stepping stone into the GUFs, but capacity building for national unions. This could be ensured by a rule that prohibits working for the ITF for 2 years after internship.

Christoph: 6-8 months internship would currently be difficult in the German programme – in the next accreditation changes could be made.

Anthony Baah: African unions can participate in internships. At the national centers not that much money is needed. Ghana TUC has over 40 Alumni from GLU. They want to do something to show appreciation for GLU.

Frank Hoffer: longer internships could also be an offer for students who have finished their MA.

Michelle: internships should be opened up to the Alumni

Carolin: internship should rather be in the frame of a programme

Clair: longer internships are interesting but challenging because of the financial implications

Mark: internships could be placed at the end of the programme and students can decide to do it short or long term; ILO for example also prefers longer internships.

Uma: In the MoU of the ILO research department with the GLU a 6 months internship is included. Could be increased to at least one more person per year. Would be necessary to identify someone a bit ahead for scholarship to seek funding.

Archana: there is a lot of enthusiasm by students to work with unions for a couple months; ENGAGE programme could also be an idea for India to involve more unions.

Nuhu Dadi: In Nigeria there is the difficulty of long bureaucracy of decision making in unions. If there is a request for an internship the information has to reach in due time to have enough time to react and activate the union.

f) Conference

It would be good to engage unions more in the conference. The unions could submit problem statements time ahead of the conference.

Edlira: Alumni could take up the topics for research projects

Carolin: With switch to 2 year cycle that may be feasible

Franko: The GLU could prepare alternate documents for ILO conference, for example on lessons from arab springs for unions or a manifest for labour.

RC44 panel on labour in authoritarian nationalism

10. Coming GLU Conferences

In Brazil we have discussed to change the rhythm of the GLU conference from annual to biannual.

Proposal: Next conference in Penn State in October 2021
 Wits could host a Steering Committee Meeting in 2020

This was agreed on.

Meeting in South Africa in fall 2020 should be a work meeting together with a SCM Meeting and maybe Alumni workshop.

Lisboa: SCM 2020 and work meeting should be used to discuss global situation 1 day and additionally to review the different programmes for updates.

Hugo: Meeting should be used for an evaluation of different Master programmes

If funding allows in 2020 a work meeting and SCM will be held in South Africa with the following topics:

- curriculum discussion
- authoritarian debate
- global capitalism and beyond + discuss proposal for next conference
- SCM

Participants should be the SCM + a few people + maybe Alumni (if Alumni workshop combined with meeting)

Time/Date for SCM: probably September/October

11. GLU Alumni Summer School 2020

Where and when, if there is no conference?

ICDD funding insecure beyond 2019: How we can continue the alumni meetings?

The DAAD's Alumni Program is only for the alumni from the German programme. Kassel can submit a proposal but additional funding is required for alumni from the other GLU campuses.

Michelle: Alumni workshop could be combined with the work meeting and SCM in fall 2020.

If Wits can't host, JNU offered to host.

Jeremy: Strategic Research workshop should be separate because it needs to be a very collaborative effort. The Cornell workshop is very intense, a lot of reading has to be done before, long days, and needs people who are very enthusiastic. It is important to bring in practitioners and to work with people from the network.

Michelle: Wits agrees to host workshop but would not be in charge of organizing the content.

12. Regional GLU Initiatives

Report from ENGAGE Latin America – Claire, Anselmo and Luis

Idea for ENGAGE programme in Senegal/Mali – Christoph

Zimbabwe Regional Alumni workshop takes place in September – Simone

ENGAGE Latin America:

2 meetings were held this year to organize. The programme should begin in 2020. Trade Unions have to contribute so there is more ownership by the unions.

FES will provide some funding.

The first 2 meetings were only in Brazil but the next meeting will be together with Argentina.

Portuguese will be the language of the course. The idea is to have a small language course before the programme but it is not clear yet how that can work. But language is not seen as a big problem.

Also the advertisement not very clear yet – will be discussed at next meeting.

There is a lot of interest from FaecyS, UNI and the public sector union.

ENGAGE Senegal/Mali:

Thomas Greven has contact to francophone Africa – will see if there is a demand for ENGAGE?

Michelle: So far ENGAGE has been linked to GLU campus. So Wits can't be linked to French ENGAGE and we should be careful to name something ENGAGE if it is not closely linked to the GLU. The quality management and good reputation of the ENGAGE programmes stems from the close connection to GLU campus

Christoph: From a German perspective it is good to have outreach to francophone Africa since France neighbouring country. But it should have a different name than ENGAGE. If there is any interest then it will be put to vote in front of the SCM.

Clair: CUT has contacts to unions in Senegal/Mali; CUT would be interested to hear about progress.

Michelle: Wits hosts a GLU Alumni Event in November with support from FES. Also African Alumni from other campuses can apply.

Regional Alumni Workshop in Harare in September:

The planning process has started. Taurai Mereki and Gift Maoneka coordinate the organisation and programme planning. The workshop is funded by a DAAD grant and FES provides funding for Alumni who have not done the GLU programme in Germany. Around 30 Alumni will be participating.

13. GLU Online activities

Update on MOOCs – Stefanie and Mark.

Strategic Research Course – Mark

Stefanie: The Bangla MOOC is finished, launch is planned for July. BILS and FES will use it in the future.

MOOC TU in transformation is finished. The FES was involved in this and Mike Fichter. It will run in April/May.

The MOOC on GSC will be update and shortened. Mark will have a testrun in Penn State.

Edlira has made big evaluation of MOOCs.

Funding applications to DGB BW are pending.

As a new outreach strategy the idea is to have more network involvement and to have smaller activities at the campuses. Edlira will develop ideas.

There is good feedback from various unions on the MOOCs. UNI offered to cooperate and to see if they can sponsor something.

Bringing it to the ground works usually works if people are approached – e.g. Alumni, or if there is some money. TUs can be very successful local partners.

The Blended Online Master will be further developed if funding will be granted.

Mark: There will be an intensive workshop at Penn State for the planning of strategic research workshop (like at Cornell).

14. Cooperation with trade unions

See above

15. Alumni Networking

Harald maintains data base for Alumni from which informative graphs on our Alumni statistics can be generated. A problem is the synchronising of the various data bases because Alumni usually update their information only at one (if at all).

16. Publications

GLU Working Papers:

Last year a new procedure with the ILO was decided

It has 2 Problems:

- 1) The ILO is very slow and takes long time for reviews (and they are not substantial); but this can be resolved
- 2) Only small number of working papers are offered. The working papers must be advertised more. From the Value Chain project a few working papers will be submitted.

The new procedure with the ILO was only introduced end of last year so probably it just takes a little time to get it fully routinized.

Please send potential papers to Hansjörg, e.g. Master thesis.

Global Labour Journal:

It is open access, peer reviewed and has advisory board with big names

There were some changes on the editorial board but no clear governance structure was in place for decisions on replacements. Now it has been discussed and a governing body was installed.

In the book series "Labour and Globalisation" a new book on agriculture will soon come out. It is a good format for PhDs and reports. It has full online access.

Global Labour Column:

Nicolas: Funding for the GLC has been a problem. It has only a reduced budget (10.000€). So the decision is to reduce the number of GLCs per year and also to scale down the team.

GLU board members should help procure contributions.

Also conference papers can be turned into GLC contributions. That could already be advertised in the call for papers.

It is important to ask people directly to write something, general appeals usually don't work.

17. Research cooperation

Current research projects Alumni:

At the AARS the following topics will be discussed as potential research projects:

- TU and cooperatives
- Excluded labour
- Organizing in GSC
- Platform economies

There will also be one session on how and why to do research groups. Sometimes it is difficult to motivate Alumni to do research projects; a new approach will be attempted.

It was discussed whether Alumni who don't want to be involved in research groups should not get invited to the AARS. That was seen to strict for various reasons. Alumni are also involved in MOOCs, GLC and are important resource persons for the network. But it was agreed that Alumni should have at least the openness to participate. So if Alumni say explicitly that they don't want to participate in research projects then they should not be invited.

Global Value Chains Project:

Hansjörg: Different value chains were researched (automobile, agriculture) and a big number of case studies conducted.

Publication is planned for early 2020.

There will be attempts to find funding to continue the project with a focus on financialisation.

18. Associate GLU Membership enlarged networking

Please indicate, if you have any candidates to suggest. Associate members should in one way or another be involved in GLU activities.

No new members

19. New contacts with potential partners

SOAS MSc Labour, Social Movements and Development – Tim Pringle

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/development/programmes/msc-labour-social-movements-and-development/>

Tim Pringle: SOAS is interested to become new GLU campus

Precarious workers, platform capitalism, union revitalisation, workers representation are all issues in the labour programme. The programme has about 12 students per year and they would like to expand the programme.

A problem though are the student fees. They are at 10.000 pound.

A solution could be specially dedicated scholarships. This is supported by the director of research.

Until next GLU meeting SOAS should come up with a few secured scholarships for TUs from the global south. Additionally some exchange should be organized, maybe via Erasmus.

At the next meeting it can be put to vote if SOAS becomes new GLU campus.

20. Miscellaneous