

## Werk

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## Abstracts

### **Mischa Suter: Ein Stachel in der Seite der Sozialgeschichte: Jacques Rancière und die Zeitschrift *Les Révoltes logiques***

The article explores the intersection of history and politics in the works of French philosopher Jacques Rancière, focusing on the collectively edited journal *Les Révoltes logiques* (1975–85). It argues that the historiographic project of *Les Révoltes logiques* took up specific forms of counter-knowledge that were embedded in the radical left-wing politics of their day. It further traces both the engagement with historiography and the role of history in Rancière's later work, following the dissolution of the journal.

### **Pun Ngai und Lu Huilin: Kultur der Gewalt. Das Subunternehmersystem und kollektive Aktionen von BauarbeiterInnen im post-sozialistischen China**

The modern cityscapes of Shanghai and Beijing, which today seem to crystallize Chinese dreams of modernity and global status, are underpinned by a construction industry steeped in a culture of violence. This culture arises from the political economy of the industry and from the politics of labor resistance among migrant construction workers. The rapid development of the industry has enabled a highly exploitative labor subcontracting system to emerge, characterized both by the rapid commodification of labor through non-industrial social relations organized through a quasi-labor market in the rural villages and by the expropriation of labor during the production process of the construction sector in urban areas. These two processes shape a labor subcontracting system that results in a never-ending process of wage arrears and the struggle of construction

workers to pursue delayed wages in various ways, often involving violent collective action.

**Wolfgang Hien: Arbeitsverhältnisse und Gesundheitszerstörung der Arbeitenden. Eine Forschungsskizze am Beispiel der Entwicklung in Deutschland seit 1970**

The destruction of workers' health was part of the calculus of Taylorist work organisation. The 'humanisation of working life' envisaged during the early 1970s was explicitly intended as a break with Taylorism. However, attempts to impinge upon the economic and ideological dominance of capital proved unsuccessful. Since then, there has developed a tendency for workers to neglect their health and well-being even in the absence of classic Taylorist hierarchies – a tendency euphemistically described, in academic discourse, as the 'subjectivation of work.' The resulting work-induced psychic disorders have been appositely described in terms of a 'corrosion of character' (Richard Sennett). The present realities of working life call for a health-oriented 'labour politics from below' capable of freeing workers from the grip of neoliberal working conditions.

**Hanno Balz: Die janusköpfige Revolte: Das globale „1968“ zwischen Genealogie und Fortschreibung**

Following the contributions to the debate on the role of '1968' as a cultural revolution by Detlef Siegfried and Arndt Neumann, this article takes a broader look at the global revolt of the 1960s. The global revolt had its roots in Third World struggles, mainly in the Cuban revolution. Also, '1968' should not be viewed in isolation but seen as part of long-term social struggles (in this context, reference is made to youth cultures and working class cultural movements). The Janus-faced character of '1968' comprises both the genealogy of '1968' and its political legacy, including the ways in which this legacy is being used to re-legitimize elites.

**Maurizio Coppola: Fiat Mirafiori: Ende einer Ära der Arbeitsbeziehungen in Italien?**

The article offers a concise overview of the historical and present-day development of labor relations at Fiat's Mirafiori plant in Turin. The new plan *Fabbrica Italia*, introduced by CEO Sergio Marchionne, combines new investments with the flexibilisation of working conditions – with dire consequences for the health of workers. At the same time, historically strong trade unions are excluded from official labor representation. The changing labor relations at Fiat could serve as a model for Italian industry in its entirety.

**Peter Birke: Macht und Ohnmacht des Korporatismus. Eine Skizze zu den aktuellen Arbeitskämpfen in Deutschland**

Since the beginning of the financial crisis, urban and ecological social movements have been comparatively strong and visible in Germany. On the other hand, strikes and other forms of labor unrest seem to have vanished or have at least not been covered by the mainstream media. This does not mean they do not exist: struggles against precarization and the deterioration of working conditions are taking place, but in a more decentralized and disarticulated way than during the four years before the crisis. One of the reasons consists in the systematic integration of the trade union leadership and a major part of its rank-and-file members into crisis management strategies and forms of tripartite corporatism. The article points out that this might be an ambivalent process that could ultimately produce further precarization and thus more social conflicts and labor unrest.

**Helmut Dietrich: Die tunesische Revolte als Fanal.  
Kommentar und Chronik (17. Dezember 2010–14. Januar  
2011)**

The Tunisian revolt began in the country's impoverished heartland, and it took some time for knowledge of the event to circulate widely given the news blackout imposed by the government. The revolt quickly became the paradigm of a practice of radical social transformation throughout the Arab world. In Europe, the revolt was hardly perceived during its early stages. The revolt derived its dynamic from an informal experiential context that combines marginality and mobility in a new way and develops unforeseen persuasiveness on the streets.