

Work – Employment – Vocation.

The Production of Differences and Hierarchies of Livelihood in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Since the late nineteenth century, work radically changed in its form and content in Western nation states. Paid employment was normalized as the legitimate way to gain one's livelihood. Moreover, employment began to require aptitude, affinity, and training as well as steadfastness and dedication: it required a vocation, profession, *métier*, *état*, *profession*, *Beruf*, and so on.

The German term *Beruf* is perhaps the best example. The idea that a *Beruf* was more and more necessary or essential for all persons in a given polity emerged as recently as the first half of the twentieth century in a history of various struggles to redefine work. Every occupation was soon supposed to become a particular case of *Beruf*. Although there still were (and are) diverse possibilities for making a living and the inclusion of some (e.g. housework) was disputed, *Beruf* emerged as the benchmark for assessing them. Not only were policy-makers, official institutions, political and economic organizations and trade associations involved in the struggles to establish *Beruf*, but so were individuals who in any number of ways received and/or organized a livelihood. They participated by accepting new offers and demands, by making an effort to attain a life-long vocation – or instead by doing something different, such as pursuing long-standing opportunities like farm or domestic service or new ones like unskilled labour and leisure time.

A history of *Beruf* can therefore not be written if the manifold ways people sustained and altered their livelihoods are omitted. This holds true for its homologues in other nation states, too.

The workshop will explore how new hierarchies of ways to earn a living were established in national labour markets, focussing on the most legitimate references like vocation, profession, *métier*, or *Beruf*. This includes questions of state policy, professional organization, vocational training and counselling as well as how boundaries towards other (new) institutions as housework, domestic service, unskilled labour, and leisure time were put into practice.

Concept & Organization



Sigrid Wadauer
Peter Angerer
Thomas Buchner
Sonja Hinsch
Alexander Mejstrik
Jessica Richter
Georg Schinko
Irina Vana

Contact

The Production of Work
Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte
Universität Wien
Standort:
Maria-Theresien-Straße 9/4
A-1090 Wien
+43 / +1 / 4277 / 41337
pow.wiso@univie.ac.at
<http://pow.univie.ac.at>

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workshop

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Campus der Universität Wien
Friday February 10, 2012 –
Saturday February 11, 2012

WORKSHOP-PROGRAMME

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February 10–11, 2012

Campus der Universität Wien
Spitalgasse 2–4, A-1090 Wien
Seminarraum des Instituts für
Ethik und Recht in der Medizin
(= Alte Kapelle), Hof 2.8

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2012

9.00–9.30 **Sigrid Wadauer,**
Alexander Mejstrik (Vienna):
Welcome and Introduction

Chair: *Jessica Richter*

9.30–10.30 **Thomas Sokoll** (Hagen):
Labour, Vocational Commitment and
Modern Capitalism: Max Weber and Beyond

10.30–10.50 *Coffee break*

10.50–11.50 **Tuhina Ganguly** (New Delhi):
Conceptualizing Work-Employment in India:
A Study of *Chakri* in Colonial Bengal
(19th–20th Centuries)

11.50–12.50 **Irina Vana** (Vienna):
Vocation as a Distinctive Feature in the Use
of Labour Offices (Austria, 1918–1938)

12.50–14.15 *Lunch break*

Chair: *Sigrid Wadauer*

14.15–15.15 **Wiebke Wiede** (Trier):
Vocational Training and the Unemployed
Self in West Germany and Great Britain,
1964–1990

15.15–16.15 **David Meskill** (New York):
Punctuated Equilibria: Three »Leaps« in
the Evolution of the German Vocational
Training System

16.15–16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30–17.30 **Therese Garstenauer** (Vienna):
Service to the State: Work, Vocation,
Livelihood – or Something Else Entirely?

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Chair: *Thomas Buchner*

10.00–11.00 **Georg Schinko** (Vienna):
Beruf in Music-Making
(Austria, ca. 1900–1938)

11.00–12.00 **Tanja Paulitz** (Graz):
Engineer and Machine:
On the Interplay between Profession-
alization, Scientific Knowledge and
Gender in the German-Speaking Area,
1850–1930

12.00–13.30 *Lunch break*

Chair: *Alexander Mejstrik*

13.30–14.30 **Mareike Witkowski** (Oldenburg):
From Housemaids to Cleaning
Ladies. Domestic Workers During
the 20th Century

14.30–15.30 **Sarah Speck** (Berlin):
Professionalizing Motherhood.
Love and Care Work in SOS Children's
Villages between Naturalization,
Vocation and Employment

15.30–16.00 **Conclusion**

If you would like to attend the workshop, please register
at <http://pow.univie.ac.at/newsletter-anmeldungen/> or
send an email to pow.wiso@univie.ac.at.