



New and emerging forms of worker collectivism: Resisting the rise of employers' precarious work in the 'gig economy'

Saturday, 26 October

11:00 – 2:00pm

Djam Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

Rather belatedly, new and existing forms of worker collectivism (such as unions) in countries like Britain and the United States are finally getting to grips with the rise of various forms of precarious work in the 'gig economy', whether high tech or low tech.

This symposium – which will later be published in *Capital & Class* – showcases some of the most insightful and penetrating new research into how unions and workers are finally getting to grips with starting to successfully resist employer unilateralism.

The most important question then posed by these pieces of research is: how can the successes be scaled up so that the challenge to employers is widespread and effective rather than just a straw in the wind. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers to address this issue and many others in the symposium.

Gregor Gall (University of Leeds): Introduction to symposium

Alex Wood (University of Birmingham): 'Beyond mobilising at McDonald's: The lessons of the 'OUR Walmart' campaign'

Eleanor Kirk (University of Glasgow): 'Contesting 'bogus self-employment' via legal mobilisation: the case of the foster care workers' campaign'

Joe Kearsey (University of Nottingham): 'Control, camaraderie and resistance: Precarious work and organisation in the hospitality industry'

Simon Joyce (University of Leeds): 'Rediscovering the cash nexus, again: subsumption and the labour-capital relation in platform work'

All are welcome to this free event.