

# The Body and Health in Feminist Labour History

International Conference of the  
European Labour History Network | Feminist Labour History WG

14-16 October 2026

The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History  
of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
Warsaw, Rynek Starego Miasta 31



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Department of  
Historical Studies

CENTRAL  
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POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE,  
GIURIDICHE E STUDI INTERNAZIONALI  
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# PROGRAM

**Wednesday 14 October 2026**

9.00-9.15 Registration

9.15-9.30 Introduction

## **9.30-11.15 Session 1: Labour Productivity and the Body**

Chair: Eloisa Betti

Zsófia Anna Veszely “(Re)production, Ageing and the Body in State-Socialist Hungary”

Andrea Ragno “The Female Body at Work between Medical Discourse and Gender Medicine: Menstruation and Productivity in the Italian Context”

Nikos Kastrinakis “Female Workers’ Health, Experiences of Accidents and the Making of the Non-Productive Body in Interwar Greece”

Athena Michalakea “Health, Productivity, and Penal-Welfare Governance: The Body of the Sex Worker in 20th Century Greece”

## **11.15-11.45 Break**

## **11.45-13.15 Session 2: Gendering Healthcare Workers**

Chair: Jaśmina Korczak-Siedlecka

Marek Maj “Midwives’ Letters and Proletarianization in the Free City of Kraków”

Katarzyna Szarla “Occupational Exposure and the Gendered Healthcare Labour during the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Poland, 1980s-1990s”

Fanni Svégl “Working with Women’s Bodies: Pregnancy as a Terrain of Expertise in Socialist Hungary”

## **13.15-14.15 Lunch Break**

## **14.15-16.00 Session 3: Gender Violence and Domestic Workers in the Americas**

Chair: Agata Bloch

Emily E. LB. Twarog, Elisa Frühauf Garcia “Women Domestic Workers in Brazil and the United States: Gender Violence, Colonial Legacies, and Survivance”

Mariana Sarkis Olson “Domestic Work and Violence on Trial: Ecclesiastical Justice in Colonial Mexico Trial”

Suelen Siqueira Julio “Indigenous Women and the Worlds of Labor: Gender, Race, and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro”

Eileen Boris “Dora’s Body”

## **16.15-16.30 Break**

## **16.30-17.30 Session 4: Gendering the Working Time**

Chair: Susan Zimmermann

Anne-Valérie Zuber “*Robots Day and Night, No Thanks! Feminist Mobilisations Against Women’s Night Work in the Swiss Watchmaking Industry (1984-1992)*”

María Nieves García-Pintor “The Eight Hours Campaign and the Medicalisation of Women Workers’ Bodies in Spain, 1870-1910”

## **Thursday 15 October 2026**

## **9.30-11.15 Session 5: Constructing Gender Difference**

Chair: Dobrochna Kałwa

Intaek Hong “The Red Body: Hygienic Womanhood and Constructing Masculine and Feminine Female Workers’ Body in Postcolonial North Korea, 1953-1965”

Xuan Jin “Offshore Risk and Onshore Reproduction: Gendered Bodily Governance in Postwar Taiwan’s Port Society”

Grace Simpson “Anaemic Housewife to Waged Worker: the Female Body in European Mining-Related Publications (1947-75)”

Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska “Reproducing Labor Force: Debating Polish Immigrant Women’s Reproductive Labors in the Turn-of-the-Twentieth Century United States”

## **11.15-11.45 Break**

## **11.45-13.30 Session 6: Expertise and Governance of Labour**

Chair: Barbara Klich-Kluczevska

Mart Chmielewski “Disabled Bodies at Work: The Case of *Invalids’ Cooperatives* in State Socialist Poland”

Karolina Siewak “Health and Work of Rural Women in Poland in the 1960s and 1970s: Medical and Sociological Perspectives”

Anna Ivanova “Gendered Labour in Soviet Agriculture in the 1970s”

Selin Çağatay “Rethinking the Genealogy of ‘Reproductive Rights’: Gender, Labour, and the Forgotten Actors in Family Planning Education, 1960s-1980s”

## **13.30-14.30 Lunch Break**

## **14.30-16.00 Session 7: Workers’ Mobilisations and Activism**

Chair: Emily Gioielli

Georgia-Taygeti Katakou “*ARMS! SOFT VELVETY READY FOR THE NEXT WASHING UP*. Greek Feminists and the Body as a Terrain of Protest (1974-1989)”

Judit Acsády “Intersections of Feminist Activism and Early Sociographies about Women Workers’ Conditions in Industry at the Beginning of the 20th Century in Hungary”

Eloisa Betti, Liliosa Azara “*Hands off, dear colleague! The “Discovery” of Sexual Harassment in Italian Workplaces in the 1980s*”

#### **16.15-16.30 Break**

#### **16.30-18.00 Special Event: Exhibition “The ‘80s Look at Us”**

Guided Tour at the Exhibition at Dom Spotkań z Historią (Address: Karowa 20), Guide: Dr Katarzyna Stańczak-Wiślicz (Polish Academy of Sciences)

### **Friday 16 October 2026**

#### **9.45-11.15 Session 8: Narrating Gendered Experiences of Work**

Chair: Mart Chmielewski

Thanasis Betas “*Elderly female worker... Frequently absent due to illness. Work, Health, and Gender in the Greek Tobacco Industry, 1945-1980*”

Kirill Goriachok “*Body and Celluloid: Conditions of Female Labour in Early Soviet Film*”

Eszter Varsa “*Always on my own: An Intersectional Analysis of Three Peasant Women’s Recollections of Their Working Lives in the First Half of the 20th Century in Hungary*”

#### **11.15-11.45 Break**

#### **11.45-13.15 Session 9: Roundtable**

##### **“The Body and Health in Feminist Labour History: New Trends in Historiography”**

Speakers: Jan Burek (Warsaw University), Izabela Mrzygłód (GHI/IH PAN, Warsaw), Leda Papastefanaki (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)

Chair: Natalia Jarska

#### **13.15-14.15 Lunch**

Scientific Committee: Eloisa Betti (University of Padova), Eileen Boris (University of California, Santa Barbara), Natalia Jarska (Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences), Leda Papastefanaki (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences), Eszter Varsa (Central European University), and Susan Zimmermann (Central European University)

Organizing Committee: Mart Chmielewski, Natalia Jarska

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**Project co-organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences**