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***Precarious lives in post-socialism: transition tales from the Croatian garment industry***

The paper addresses the worsening of labour and social rights that followed the end of socialism in post-Yugoslav states, looking in particular at the Croatian garment industry, a traditionally feminized sector that was heavily affected by deindustrialisation, precarious labour relations and unemployment in the last twenty years. These processes, in turn, had a strong impact on gender relations and on working women's identities. Textile workers' relatively stable position during socialism will be discussed in relation to their contemporary precarity, on the basis of oral history interviews and archival sources. The issue of post-socialist precarity will also be connected to the question of free and unfree labour, as employees of state-owned factories often worked without receiving a wage during transition, in the hope that their factory would recover. After privatization or bankruptcy, instead, years of wages and social contributions were lost for thousands of workers in Croatia and across the former Yugoslavia.