**Thematic session 1**

***Spatializing Free and Unfree Labour: Households, Workshops and Sex Industry***

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**Chair: Rebekka von Mallinckrodt**, University of Bremen, Germany

This session gathers a series of researches that examine the various forms of free and unfree labour, attending the multiple spaces in which labour relations take place. The study of these spaces gives us the possibility of approaching the coexistence and compatibility of free and unfree labour, as well as assessing, from a spatial perspective, the blurred boundaries that in practice emerge between free and unfree labour and their intermediate positions. In this framework, places such as households, workshops and plantations allow us to look more deeply into the living conditions, and the interaction between workers.

The study of the space is not just limited to the physical workplace, but also extended to the spheres where workers associate themselves, or try to improve their situation (in a legal, judicial or religious scope), highlighting the individual and collective agency of those submitted to forced labour, among whom gender and age differences have consequences in their legal status and labour relations.

The session also considers the space in a global perspective, as it encompasses the analysis of free and unfree labour in a variety of settings ranging from European cities such as late-medieval Venice, to American colonial context such as Dutch Atlantic slave society of Suriname. No global approach should forget time, and the session adopts a *longue-durée* view, covering from the preindustrial period to slave labour in the nineteenth century in a developing capitalism economy.