

Dr ALESSANDRA MEZZADRI

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Nationality: Italian; Languages: Italian (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (very good); French (fair); Hindi (fair)

EDUCATION

Sep 2003- July 2009 **PhD in Development Studies, SOAS, Department of Development Studies**

Sep 2002-Sep 2003 **MSc in Development Studies, SOAS, Department of Development Studies** (merit)

Nov 1994-Mar 2000 **Laurea in Economics, 'La Sapienza', Rome: summa (110/110) cum laude** (first).

Sept 1989- Nov 1994 **Diploma di Liceo Scientifico, 'Cristo Re' Private High School, Rome 59/60** (first)

MAIN RESEARCH INTEREST

Global industrial development and commodity chains; labour regimes and the informal economy; labour standards, CSR, modern slavery; Marxist feminist and social reproduction approaches to development; ethnography of power relations and Marxian methods for field research; India's political economy; the global garment industry and its sweatshops across time and space

AWARDS AND GRANTS

May 2021 *OSUN network grant for itinerant feminist political economy summer school – with Sara Stevano and Hannah Bargawi (details and budget to be finalised)*

April 2019 WIDER Award for project on the *Afterlife of Industrial Work in the Garment Industry*, with Kaustav Banerjee (AUD, Delhi) (\$10,000)

March 2016 SOAS, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences: Research Grant (£2,000) for collecting life histories of former women garment workers in Bangalore, India.

March 2013 SOAS, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences: Research Grant (£1,961) for conducting Interviews with Social Compliance Managers in Delhi, support TO Project 'Labour Conditions and the Working Poor in China and India'

May 2011 ESRC-DFID Grant (£364,068.43) for the project 'Labour Conditions and the Working Poor in China and India' (co-investigator for India), project involving UK, India and China based academics, led by Dr Jens Lerche, SOAS

May 2010 British Academy Small Grant (£7,497) for the project 'The Global Village? Homeworking in the global economy' (sole investigator). The grant will fund fieldwork in Bareilly (UP) in September 2011 and January-March 2012

February 2010 SOAS, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences: Research Grant (£1,500) for a pilot study on homeworking in Bareilly, UP (India); fieldwork was carried out in April 2010

December 2008 Indian Society of Labour Economics, Lucknow (UP, India): Young Scholar Award

September 2004 SOAS, Faculty of Law and Social Science: Fieldwork Grants (£1,200)

September 2002 Università Degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza: Borsa di Perfezionamento all'Estero (Full scholarship to specialise abroad, € 18,000) to attend the MSc in Development Studies at SOAS

November 1997 Università di Roma La Sapienza: Erasmus Socrates Scholarship spent at University of Greenwich, London

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sep 2016 – present **Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, SOAS, Department of Development Studies**

Sep 2008-Sep 2016 **Lecturer in Development Studies, SOAS, Department of Development Studies**

Convenorship and teaching in a vast array of development studies, political economy of development, and feminist political economy courses. See <https://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff31433.php>

PhD students

Lorenza Monaco (awarded 2015): *Bringing Operaismo to Gurgaon, Delhi: Auto Workers and Industrial Relations*; Nithya Natarjan (awarded April 2019): *Tobacco production in Tamil Nadu: Agrarian Change and Ecology* Ayse Arslan (awarded January 2019): *The Productive and Reproductive Labour of the Garment Workers of Izmir, Turkey*; Emma Hooper: *Big Pharma, Fake Drugs Chains, and Development* (first year PT, upgraded); Rabia Zaid: *A feminist critique to microfinance and empowerment in Pakistan* (first year, upgraded); Extensive experience in supervisory committees.

MEMBERSHIPS, PEER REVIEW/EXTERNAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AND CONSULTANCY

External Examiner for the Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme, Oxford (2018 -present).

Lead technical Expert on the ILO Project 'Industrial Relations and Disputes in the Garment Industry in India' 2020- present.

Member of International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) and Development Studies Association (DSA).

Peer reviewer for Journal for Development Studies, Forum for Social Economics; Development and Change; Journal of Agrarian Change; Gender and Development; Global Networks; Journal of World Business, Third World Quarterly, Capital and Class, Journal of Business Ethics; Antipode; Geoforum; Global Labour Journal; Social Forces; Sociological Review; Cambridge University Press; ESRC pre-award and post-awards reviewer

Pro bono expert for War on Want (UK), ILO-Delhi, Labour Behind the Label, Fashion Revolution, Anti-Slavery International. Short-term consultancy to UNU-WIDER, Action Aid, UNIDO, DfID.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Sweatshop Regime: Labouring Bodies, Exploitation and Garments Made in India. Cambridge University Press - Global Series: Development Trajectories in Global Value Chains (2017, 2020).

Marx in the Field (ed.) Anthem Press (2021)

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

(2021) with Sara Stevano, Lorena Lombardozi, Hannah Bargawi, 'Hidden Abodes in Plain Sight: The Social Reproduction of Households and Labour in the COVID-19 pandemic'. *Feminist Economics*.

(2020) 'A Value Theory of Inclusion: Informal Labour, the Homemaker, and the Social Reproduction of Value'. *Antipode*.

(2020) with Sanjita Majumder 'Towards a Feminist Political Economy of Time in and beyond the Sweatshop'. *Review of International Political Economy* (RIPE special issue on social reproduction)

(2020) 'The Informal Labours of Social Reproduction', in *Global Labour Journal*, 10th Anniversary Issue.

(2019) 'On the Value of Social Reproduction: Informal Labour, the Majority World and the Need for Inclusive Theories and Politics'. *Radical Philosophy* (Dossier of Social Reproduction) 2.04.

(2018) with Lulu, Fan (2018) 'Classes of Labour' at the Margins of Global Commodity Chains in India and China'. *Development and Change*. OpenAccess

(2017) with Prentice, Rebecca and De Neve, Geert, and Ruwanpura, Kanchana N. (2017) 'Health and Safety in Garment Workers' Lives: Setting a New Research Agenda'. *Geoforum*, (88): 157-160.

(2016) 'The informalization of capital & interlocking in labour contract networks.' *Progress in Development Studies* 16(2):124-139.

(2016) 'Class, gender and the sweatshop: on the nexus between labour commodification and exploitation.' *Third World Quarterly*, 37 (10). pp. 1877-1900.

(2014) 'Indian garment clusters and CSR norms: incompatible agendas at the bottom of the garment commodity chain', in *Oxford Development Studies* 42 (2): 217-237.

(2014) 'Backshoring, local sweatshop regimes and CSR in India.' *Competition and Change*, 18 (4): 327-344.

(2012) 'Reflections on globalisation and labour standards in the Indian garment industry: codes of conduct versus 'codes of practice' imposed by the firm', special issue on labour standards in India, *Global Labour Journal*, Vol. 3 No. 1, pp. 40-62

(2010) 'Globalisation, Informalisation and the State: evidence from the Indian Garment Sector', *Review of International Sociology*, Vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 491-511

(2008) 'The raise of neoliberal globalisation and the 'new old' social regulation of labour: the case of Delhi garment sector', in *Indian Journal of Labour Economics* 51(4): 603-618

BOOK CHAPTERS

(2021) 'Marx's Field in our Global Present', introductory chapter to *Marx in the Field* (Anthem).

(2021) 'Marx in the Sweatshop: Exploitation and Social Reproduction in a Global Factory called India', in *Marx in the Field* (Anthem).

(2020) 'Sweatshop Economics, the Poverty of Trade Theory and the Making of Inequality Across Scales', in Dunn, B. (ed.) *A Research Agenda for Critical Political Economy*, Edward Elgar

(forthcoming) 'Modes of Unfreedom in the Garment Commodity Chain in India' in Ismard P. (ed.) *World History of Slavery*, Paris: Seuil.

(2020) with Elena Baglioni: 'Labour control regimes and social reproduction: some reflections over the strengths and weaknesses of an evolving framework', in A. Hammer and A. Fishwick *The Political Economy of Work in the Global South* Palgrave.

(2017) 'Garment Sweatshop Regimes, the Laboring Body, and the Externalization of Social Responsibility over Health and Safety Provisions'. In: Prentice, Rebecca and De Neve, Geert, (eds.), *Unmaking the global sweatshop: health and safety of the world's garment workers*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp 173-199.

(2017) 'Class, gender and the sweatshop: on the nexus between labour commodification and exploitation'. In: Pattenden, J. and Campling, L. and Miyamura, S. and Selwyn, B., (eds.), *Class Dynamics of Development*. Abingdon; New York: Routledge.

(2010) 'Assessing the Effectiveness of Corporate Social Responsibility as a Tool for "Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities": The case of the Delhi Garment Cluster' in *Growth, Exports and Technological Change in Developing Countries*, UNIDO Research and Statistics Branch Working Paper 26/2009, Vienna: UNIDO, pp. 148-165

(2009) 'Neoliberalism, industrial restructuring and labour: lessons from the Delhi garment industry', in Saad-Filho A. and Yalman G.L. (eds.) *Economic Transitions to Neoliberalism in Middle-Income Countries-Policy Dilemmas, Crises, Mass Resistance*, London: Routledge, pp. 128-140

(2008) 'Feminise without Unionise: the Indian Garment sector and its lack of solidarity', in *Missing Links in Sustainable Development (SD): South Asian Perspectives*, SDPI/Sama, Islamabad, pp. 105-130

(2007) 'The limitation of corporate social responsibility in the Indian garment sector: a case study from the Delhi industrial area at the end of the Multi Fibre Agreement', in *At the crossroads: South Asian Research, Policy and Development in a Globalised World*, SDPI/Sama, Islamabad, pp. 16-35

EXPECTED/IN PROGRESS

Research Handbook on the Global Political Economy of Work, edited with Maurizio Atzeni (CONICET), Dario Azzellini (Cornell), Phoebe Moore (Leicester), and Ursula Apatzsch (Frankfurt) (under contract, planned publication 2022)

RIPE special issue, co-edited with Susan Newman and Sara Stevano (Introduction in press, all articles published online)

With Kaustav Banerjee 'The Afterlife of industrial employment along the Delhi-Bihar corridor'. UNU-WIDER Working Paper.

'Social Reproduction as method: pandemic neoliberalism & reproductive crises of work, life & death'. *Organization* (forthcoming)

BLOGS AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

(2020) with Kanchana Ruwanpura How Asia's clothing factories switched to making PPE – but sweatshop problems live on. The Conversation

(2020) A crisis like no other: social reproduction and the regeneration of capitalist life during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Developing Economics* (translated into Italian, French, Spanish and Albanian)

(2019) All is revealed: how productivity barely covers anything in fast fashion prices. TheMint

(2019) Review of: 'We the Workers'. Directed by Wen Hai. New York: Icarus Films, 2017. The Conversation.

(2019) Rana Plaza, Six Years On: We Will Not Shop Where We Cannot Struggle.

(2019) The march out of the sweatshop: on work and life after the garment factory. SOAS Blog

(2017) 'Machines: Watch this documentary to understand the working poverty of the sweatshop' The Conversation.

(2017) 'Sweatshop Regime' The Page 99 Test.

(2016) 'Modern slavery and the gendered paradoxes of labour unfreedom' *OpenDemocracy Beyond Trafficking and Slavery*.

(2016) 'Working poverty in many sizes: A survey of Delhi garment workers challenges key assumptions in the labour standards debate' *Global Labour Column*.

(2015) 'Mr Modi and the working poor' SOAS South Asia Notes.

(2015) 'Why inequality matters – for the rich and the poor'. The Conversation UK

(2015) 'A 'song of the wage' for Rana Plaza'. *New Internationalist*.

(2015) "Free to stitch or starve: capitalism & unfreedom in the global garment industry". *OpenDemocracy Beyond Trafficking & Slavery*.

(2014) 'Cambodian sweatshop protests reveal the blood on our clothes'. The Conversation UK.

(2014) 'Are Ethical Initiatives Successful in the Indian Garment Industry? A Focus on Homeworkers'. SOAS Development Viewpoint 83.

(2009) 'The global footloose proletariat and the financial crisis: reflections on the contradictions of export-oriented industrialisation in India'. *Global Labour Column* 5.

(2008) 'How Globalised Production Exploits Informal-Sector Workers: Investigating the Indian Garment Sector'. SOAS Development Viewpoint 12.

MONGRAPHS, REPORTS AND WORKING PAPERS

(2018) With Majumder, Sanjita (2018) The 'Afterlife' of Cheap Labour: Bangalore Garment Workers from Factories to the Informal Economy. FEDI and Cividep Working Paper: .

(2017) Lerche, Jens and Mezzadri, Alessandra and Chang, Dae-Oup and Ngai, Pun and Huilin, Ku and Aiyu, Liu and Srivastava, Ravi (2017) *The Triple Absence of Labour Rights: Triangular Labour Relations and Informalisation in the Construction and Garment Sectors in Delhi and Shanghai*. London: SOAS University of London.

(2015) With Srivastava, Ravi *Labour regimes in the Indian garment sector: capital-labour relations, social reproduction and labour standards in the National Capital Region*. London: CDPR SOAS.

(2015) 'Garment Sweatshop Regimes: The Informalisation of Social Responsibility over Health and Safety Provisions', Working paper 30/2015. SOAS CDPR.

* Full profile at <https://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff31433.php>

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

I delivered invited seminars, lectures and keynotes, including at Cornell (Ithaca), The New School (NY), IDE (Tokyo), Universities of Ghent and Louvain (Belgium), the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (Moscow), JNU (Delhi), AUD (Delhi), Premji University (Bangalore); University of Turin, ILO (Geneva), Lund (Sweden); UNU-WIDER (Helsinki). A detailed list is available on demand.