



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE,
GIURIDICHE E STUDI INTERNAZIONALI (SPGI)



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento
di Studi Linguistici
e Culturali Comparati

Labor Politics in the Oil Industry: New Historical Perspectives

CONFERENCE

organized by

Touraj Atabaki | International Institute of Social History, **Duccio Basosi** | University of Venice Ca' Foscari,
Elisabetta Bini | University of Trieste, **Giuliano Garavini** | University of Padua, **Francesco Petrini** | University
of Padua, **Massimiliano Trentin** | University of Bologna

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Dipartimento di scienze politiche, giuridiche e studi internazionali
Aula Economia
Via del Santo 28 Padova

sponsored by

University of Padua, FIRB *Engines of Growth*
University of Padua, Department of Political Science, Law, and International Studies
University of Venice Ca' Foscari, FIRB *Engines of Growth*

The importance of labor in the history of national and international oil politics has been largely overlooked by scholars. Yet, as recent events in Libya, Algeria and Nigeria show, oil workers play (and have played) a crucial role in blocking or redirecting the flow of oil, while labor policies have often been central in defining relations between international oil companies and oil producing states.

This international conference aims at analyzing the role labor has had in transforming oil politics during the 20th century, particularly its second half. The decades that run from the 1950s to the 1990s are by now recognized as crucial in changing the relationship between oil producing and oil consuming countries. However, scholars have focused their attention mostly on diplomatic relations and high politics or on the economic strategies carried out by single oil firms. With few exceptions, the ways in which labor relations, workers and trade unions contributed to redefine oil politics has received but scant attention.



Programme

10 am

Geert Van Goethem (Amsab Institute of Social History/Ghent University), *Unattainable Paradise: American Labor's Global Activities and the Petroleum Workers during the Cold War Era*

Betsy A. Beasley (Yale University), *Wildcat: Outsourcing, Expertise, and Oil in Postwar Houston*

Coffee break

Zachary Cuyler (Georgetown University), *Tapline and Lebanese workers, 1950-1964*

Eva-Maria Muschik (New York University), *"A Pretty Kettle of Fish": UN Assistance in the Redeployment of 20,000 Surplus Workers in the Iranian Oil Industry, 1958-60*

Kevin A. Young (State University of New York at Stony Brook), *Blood of the Earth: Oil Nationalism and the Working Class in Bolivia, 1952-1969*

Discussant: Touraj Atabaki (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam)

1 pm *Lunch break*

2 pm

Elisabetta Bini (University of Trieste), *Securing a Global Oil Empire: The U.S. and the Challenge of Libyan Oil Workers, 1955-1981*

Vincent Godfrey (Tuskegee University), *The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and the Struggle for the Nationalization of the Petroleum Industry in Trinidad and Tobago, 1967-1989*

Coffee break

Peyman Jafari (University of Amsterdam), *Telling It Like It Wasn't: Oil Workers and the Power Struggle During the Iranian Revolution, 1978-1982*

Daniel A. Omoweh (Western Delta University, Nigeria), *The State, Oil Companies and Labour Politics in the Niger Delta, Nigeria: A Historical Perspective*

Discussant: Giuliano Garavini (University of Padua)

Keynote speech

Robert Vitalis (University of Pennsylvania)



Participants

Touraj Atabaki	International Institute of Social History, The Netherlands
Duccio Basosi	University of Venice Ca' Foscari, Italy
Betsy A. Beasley	Yale University, USA
Elisabetta Bini	University of Trieste, Italy
Zachary Cuyler	Georgetown University, USA
Giuliano Garavini	University of Padua, Italy
Vincent Godfrey	Tuskegee University, USA
Peyman Jafari	University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Eva-Maria Muschik	New York University, USA
Marta Musso	University of Cambridge, UK
Daniel A. Omoweh	Western Delta University, Nigeria
Francesco Petrini	University of Padua, Italy
Massimiliano Trentin	University of Bologna, Italy
Geert Van Goethem	Amsab Institute of Social History, Belgium
Robert Vitalis	University of Pennsylvania, USA
Kevin A. Young	State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA