

## **International Conference**

### **“Youth and Work World in Postwar Europe (1945-1968)”**

This conference aims at deepening into the genealogy of historical processes which brought together students and workers during the European postwar. In Western Europe, the fascist heritage of communalism and labourism coexisted with a Catholicism of Maritainian inspiration. The latter, which was boosted by the French priests' experiences in the German Labour Service and those of the youth and workers organizations of Catholic Action, encouraged two major events which precluded the approaches which would be adopted by the Second Vatican Council. On the one hand, the start-up of new pastorals actions towards the working class. On the other, a theological renewal which aspired to develop both a deeper involvement and the defence of social justice. In Spain, which was in the fringes of the post-war European democratic development, the interweaving of fascism, increasingly forgotten but still with a certain presence in the university environment, and a Catholicism thirsty for adventure and social content gave rise to the University Labour Service (SUT).

On the basis of this initial analysis, the conference aspires to contextualize the SUT experience within the emergence process of youth organizations as well as other workers' initiatives in Europe. In addition, we seek to analyse its roots, its relationship with those other European ventures or with experiences like the post-war French worker priests. Finally, following the thread of the rupture of that restless youth with the social group, we will address their processes of politicization and radicalization. A phenomenon that reached its peak in the mobilizations that shook Europe at the

end of the sixties, calling for the union between students and workers as protagonists of a new future that was opening up in the streets of Paris, Turin or Madrid. Those dreams turned sour soon. However, the mobilizations and desires for a more just and equitable social order provoked a far-reaching social and cultural transformation in European society without which we could hardly understand our present.

The conference will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at the Maria Moliner Library (University of Zaragoza). It will be structured around five panels chaired by a coordinator who will present the guest speaker (one per roundtable), introduce the contributors, who will have around 10 minutes to expose their works, and conduct the subsequent debate. The conference will have an on-site format and will be broadcast via streaming. Accordingly, both invited speakers and participants will intervene both in person and online. Those interested in attending the conference would be able to get registered until the day before the beginning of the conference, on the website

<http://eventos.unizar.es/go/congresojuventudymundoobrero> and the corresponding link will be sent to them.

### **13<sup>th</sup> of May, 2021, Thursday.**

**-9:30h. Welcome address**

**-10h. Opening lecture:** Martin Conway (Balliol College, University of Oxford, UK) “The impossible Alliance?. Workers and Youth in Western Europe, 1945-1968”.

Chair: Carlos Domper

**-11.30h. Panel I:** Youth during the crisis of fascism: fascist radicalism, antifascism, afascism

Luca la Rovere (Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy) “Giovani e classe operaia nel fascismo europeo: dai miti del corporativismo all’antifascismo”.

Chair: Miguel Ángel Ruiz Carnicer

Papers presentation and discussion

**-13.30. Break**

**-16.30. Panel II:** Post-war Catholicism and cultural change. Christian democracy, theological renewal, worker priests

José Ramón Rodríguez Lago (Universidad de Vigo, España): “Las organizaciones juveniles católicas en el marco de la Guerra Fría (1945-1960)”

Chair: Nicolás Sesma

Papers presentation and discussion

**-20h. End**

### **14th of May, 2021, Friday**

**9.30 h Table II:** The Spanish case within the European framework: the Labour University Service (SUT) and the European workers’ initiatives

Georgina Brewis (University College London, University of London, UK): “Service to action: Student work-camping and social service in the 1950s and 1960s”

Chair: Javier Muñoz Soro

Papers presentation and discussion

**-11.30. Break**

**-12h Mesa IV.** The post-war European youth transformation: from social order to antiauthoritarianism. On the way to 68.

Nikolaos Papadogiannis (University of St Andrews, UK), “West German voluntary work in the 1960s”.

Chair: Daniel Canales

Papers presentation and discussion

**-14h. Break**

**-16.30 h. Panel V:** The emergence of women in Spanish and European youth mobilization, a new cross-cutting factor.

Carlota Coronado (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain): “Conquistando el espacio público: participación de las mujeres en la reconstrucción de la democracia italiana”

Chair: Pilar Mera Costas

Papers presentation and discussion

**18h. Break**

**18.30h Closing lecture:** Gerd-Rainer Horn (Science Po, París, France), “The Mediterranean New Left and the Working Class Dimension of 1968”

**19.30h. Concluding remarks.**