



CALL FOR PAPERS
GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE, 2024
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
25-27 SEPTEMBER, 2024

**GLOBALISATION AND TRANSITION TO AN EGALITARIAN
WORLD: RESISTANCE AND ALTERNATIVES**

It is often acknowledged that there has been a prolonged crisis of global capitalism, at least for a couple of decades. This crisis is marked by a changing international division of labour and a reinvention of globalisation which pays lip service to the so-called goals of ‘sustainable development’, essentially to find pathways for the renewal and maintenance of the neoliberal capitalist order. While the countries of the North, and their corporate collaborators, try to ease their challenges for access to cheaper resources and labour, and seek to increase their profits through multiple ways including technological changes, the countries of the South are faced with problems that emanate from newer forms of neocolonialism. These growing challenges require a reorganisation and redistribution of economic, social and political power, which does not have a legacy in the neoliberal discourses of modernisation and development. Its antecedents may be traced to the advance of the economic and political visions of decolonization, and democratic/socialist revolutions insisting on sovereignty against imperialism. The debates over such a tradition are, however, not confined, to discussions on a new international order; rather they argue that the new world should be built on processes of social and economic transformations that lead to an egalitarian society. Debates on eco-socialism, climate justice, collective ownership and cooperatives, agro-ecological transitions, alternative forms of industrialisation have captured scholarly imagination and led to multiple theoretical debates.

The trajectories of neoliberal globalisation, in several countries across the world, have been accompanied by political authoritarianism; resistance to these have evolved through diverse struggles of the peasantry and working people. Resistance is led by peasant movements, trade unions, popular grassroots organisations, women and movements of marginalized people, among others, have presented alternative visions of a better world, and the need for sustainable strategies that are ‘just’ both in terms of socio-economic and ecological parameters. The pathways to such an egalitarian world are in discussion and present us with multiple strategies and diverse visions that need documentation and greater scholarly attention. The proposed Global Labour University Conference, 2024, which will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, could aim at wide-ranging discussion on current crisis of capitalism, and its alternatives. It would be useful for the scholars and movements to

envisage pathways to egalitarian trajectories of socio-economic transformations.

A major cluster for the upcoming GLU conference in JNU, 2024 could focus on *Platform work and responsible Global Supply Chains*, as well as some broader questions related to policy interventions in response to the poly-crises of the current “world disorder”. Global supply chains and their underlying global value system have been, for many years, subjects of substantive research. The impact of *new regulatory initiatives*, like the German *Lieferkettengesetz*, or the upcoming European legislation about *mandatory due diligence*, raises additional new research questions. Furthermore, due to the prolonged Covid crisis, the re-emergence of geopolitics in global trade, and the renewed focus of *national industrial policy* pose new questions with respect to the ongoing changes in the global value systems. The multiple crises of the current neoliberal global economic order provoke the hypothesis that this regime is producing more problems than it is capable to solve. A new regulatory and political environment will emerge from these poly-crises. A wider debate about the expected tectonic changes within societies and between countries is urgently needed in order to understand the drivers and directions of the coming changes and its impact on the world of work.

In addition to the two major themes flagged above, some other related areas could be considered for the GLU 2024 conference, which could include: ongoing reconfiguration of globalisation; challenges of authoritarianism; climate justice; just transition trajectories; employment policies and decent work; labour agenda at the current juncture; among others.

We welcome submissions for papers on any of these themes. While we encourage submission of papers that broadly fit into the broad theme of the Conference. Please indicate which theme your paper addresses with your abstract submission. The GLU encourages policy orientated research and therefore welcomes submissions that not only analyse problems, but also offer some policy initiatives and solutions for debate. Please send a one-page abstract (which includes your methodological approach) by 30 April 2024 at jnuglu2024@gmail.com.

Given the paucity of resources within the GLU, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek travel support from their respective institutions. We hope to generate adequate resources for local hospitality. It may be possible for us to cover travel expenses etc., for a few participants.

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