

## **International seminar**

### **ASEP Phd Program - Analysis of Social and Economic Processes**

# **Economic globalization, vulnerable workers and new forms of collective action**

**Tuesday June 12, 10.00 – 12.00, Pagani Room, U7 (third floor)**  
**Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano Bicocca**  
**Via Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8, Milan (Italy)**

The economic globalization is increasingly characterized by relevant changes in terms of organization of work, labour market segmentation and new forms of collective actions aimed at representing and protecting vulnerable workers. This seminar aims to discuss these issues starting from the findings of two empirical researches developed in different sectors and areas.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**Giovanna Fullin and Diego Coletto** (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

#### **LATIN WORKERS ORGANIZING IN LONDON**

**Gabriella Alberti** (University of Leeds, UK)

The contribution focuses on the main findings of an empirical research that examined two instances of labour organizing by low-paid Latin American workers in London. The Author shows how migrant workers can develop innovative collective initiatives located at the junction of class and ethnicity, which can be effective and rewarding in material and non-material terms. The analysis then deals with the relations between traditional unions, which have showed a growing interest to represent migrant workers, and bottom-up initiatives of such workers who have started to articulate them independently.

#### **CUT TO THE BONE: SUBCONTRACTING, WORKERS COOPERATIVES AND LOW-PAID WORK IN THE ITALIAN MEAT INDUSTRY**

**Lisa Dorigatti** (University of Milan, Italy)

The contribution focuses on the transformations that took place since the Nineties in the organization of the production processes in the meat processing industry and on the effects of these transformations on working conditions and on the capacity for collective action in the sector. Basing on a recent empirical research, the author shows how the companies in the sector have outsourced increasingly larger segments of the production process, generally to cooperative enterprises in which workers of foreign origin are employed. The fragmentation of production processes made the exercise of forms of collective action and the action of trade unions more difficult. In this scenario new representation strategies and new actors are emerging for representing vulnerable workers.