



**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY - GPN WORKSHOP**

**TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017**

**LOCATION: C5C – FORUM**

**GPN-Labour Workshop**

**Global Production Networks in the Spotlight: Chains or Opportunities for Workers?**

**Organizing Team & Hosting Institutions:**

Lisa Magnani, Department of Economics, Macquarie University,  
Ray Markey, Centre for Workforce Futures, Macquarie University,  
Susan McGrath-Champ, Work and Organisational Studies, University of Sydney  
Chris F. Wright, Work and Organisational Studies, University of Sydney

- ❖ 9:30 – 9:45 Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome and Introduction
- ❖ 9.45 – 11:15 Session I
- ❖ **Paper 1: Indian Auto Workers, Global Production Networks and 'De Facto Informality'**  
Tom Barnes (Australian Catholic University)
- ❖ **Paper 2: Automation and Inequality in Taxes and Transfers**  
Rod Tyers (University of Western Australia) and Yixiao Zhou (Curtin University)
- ❖ **Paper 3: Geographies of Labour in Liquefied Natural Gas: Global Production at Work in Southeast Asia**  
Bradon Ellem (University of Sydney)  
  
Discussion
- ❖ 11:15 – 11:45 Morning tea
- ❖ 11:45 – 12:45 Keynote Speech:  
  
Professor Neil Coe, National University of Singapore  
***Global production networks 2.0 and the geographies of Labour***  
  
Discussion
- ❖ 12:45 – 14:00 Lunch
- ❖ 14:00 – 15:00 Session II  
  
**Paper 4: Empowerment of Bangladesh Female Workers in the Export-Oriented Sector of Ready Made Garments**  
Andrea Chareunsy and Sayma Rahman (Macquarie University)
- Paper 5: Gender in Global Production Networks: Empowerment or Exploitation**  
Annie Delaney (RMIT)  
  
Discussion
- ❖ 15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon tea
- 15:30 – 16:30 Session III

❖ **Paper 6: Human Rights Impacts in Corporate Supply Chains: Who has the Responsibility and Leverage to Protect Rights?**

Justine Nolan (UNSW)

❖ **Paper 7: Towards a Shared Responsibility Framework for Regulating Labour Standards in Global Supply Chains**

Stephen J. Frenkel (UNSW), Ivanka Mamic (Independent Researcher) and Laura Greene (International Labour Organization)

Discussion

❖ 16:30 – 16:45 Closing remarks

**Our Keynote speaker:**

**Neil Coe, Professor of Economic Geography, Department of geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore.**



Neil M. Coe is Professor of Economic Geography at the National University of Singapore. His research interests are in the areas of global production networks and local economic development; the geographies of local and transnational labour markets; the geographies of innovation; and institutional and network approaches to economic development. These concerns have been explored through research into computer services, temporary staffing and logistics in the UK, Europe and Asia Pacific, the film and television industry in the UK and Canada, and retailing in the UK, East Asia and Eastern Europe.

He has published over 80 articles and book chapters on these topics, and is a co-author of *Global Production Networks: Theorizing Economic Development in an Interconnected World* (OUP, Oxford, 2015), *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction* (Wiley, NJ, 2013, second edn.) and *Spaces of Work: Global Capitalism and the Geographies of Labour* (Sage, London, 2003). He is currently an editor of the *Journal of Economic Geography*.

<http://profile.nus.edu.sg/fass/geonmc/>

**Topic: Global production networks 2.0 and the geographies of labour**

This largely conceptual presentation will seek to offer a critical overview of recent work on global production networks/global value chains and the constituent role of labour therein. In the first part, I will introduce theoretical developments in global production network research under the rubric of 'GPN 2.0'. These fall into four main areas: delimiting global production networks, revealing the underlying drivers of their creation and evolution, understanding the importance of complex firm strategies, and conceptualising the intersections with regional economic development dynamics. In the second half, I will consider the implications of these conceptual developments from the labour perspective, evaluating a range of research that has recently sought to explore the intersections of global production networks and worker politics. In particular, I will argue for the potential of approaches that are alive to the circumscribed nature of worker agency and the inherent spatiality of all worker actions. More broadly, the presentation will suggest that effective conceptualisation of the organizational dynamics of contemporary global production networks may be an important precursor to progressive worker interventions.