

A stylized illustration in shades of green, yellow, and red. The top half shows a large ship with multiple smokestacks emitting smoke. The bottom half shows a group of people, some wearing hard hats, with one person raising a fist in a protest gesture. The background is a mix of geometric shapes and wavy lines representing water.

Conflicts over Labour & Socio-Ecological Transformation in Global Logistics

Logistics Workers Between Migration, Precarity, Rationalisation & Fragmentation

15. September > 18 Uhr
SDG+ LAB UNI:Lokal
Wilhelmsstraße 21

Lars Stubbe (ver.di Hamburg)
Irene Knoke (SÜDWIND Institut)
Alexander Gallas (Frankfurt UAS)

Moderation: Janina Puder & Anne Engelhardt
Die Veranstaltung findet auf Englisch statt.

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Chair of Economic and Industrial Sociology

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
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Kassel Institute for
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A stylized illustration in the background of the page. It features several figures in a flat, graphic style. On the left, a person with dark skin and green hair is visible. In the center, a person with light skin and dark hair is shown. On the right, a person with dark skin and long dark hair is depicted. The background is a mix of green and brown tones with abstract shapes.

Logistics is the backbone of the globalised economy. At the same time, however, it is also an important area of conflict when it comes to dealing with the global environmental crisis and geopolitical tensions. This event will focus on labour disputes in the logistics sector, particularly in the areas of trucking, aviation, and ports. Tensions over labour rights, environmental sustainability, and geo-economic influence are intensifying under conditions of rationalisation pressure and migrant precariousness. While companies and governments are pushing ahead with automation and restructuring, as well as debating measures to decarbonise global transport systems, workers around the world are coming under pressure – and, at the same time, organising resistance. Strikes, protests and cross-sectoral and cross-border alliances demonstrate that logistics is not only an economic but also deeply political infrastructure.

Together, we want to discuss where opportunities for international and cross-sector solidarity arise and where they are blocked. We also want to explore what a socio-ecological transformation of logistics might look like if it were shaped by the workers themselves, rather than at their expense.

During the discussion, we will address the following questions:

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- How are labour disputes in truck logistics, aviation and the port industry shaped by pressure to rationalise and precarious working conditions?
- What role does migration play in the logistics sector?
- What opportunities are opening up for cross-sector and international solidarity, and which structures hinder them?
- To what extent do processes such as automation and privatisation reinforce existing inequalities? Are there also new opportunities for action? How do local labour disputes affect global logistics networks?
- What role can the logistics industry play in socio-ecological transformation and geopolitical conflicts as a political field?

We will discuss these and other topics with our guests.

We look forward to seeing you there!