

## **New Subjectivations at/of Work?**

*Special issue of Journal des anthropologues*

Coordination: Etienne Bourel and Judith Hayem

### **Call for Papers**

Major transformations are currently impacting the domain of labour, regardless of the sector of activity or production. Its nature, remuneration and inscription in the global world appear to be in constant evolution. However, one may question whether these transformations are indeed due to contemporary phenomena or if, on the contrary, they should be inserted in a broader temporal context, even as far back as their geneses. This issue of *Journal des anthropologues* will examine the conjunctures relative to labour, their interferences and connections, and discuss their impacts (and potential prospects).

What are the subjective effects of these transformations on ways of thinking, conceiving and practicing work? Which words do actors use or choose to describe their work and to invoke its future? What are the issues and questions raised for them by the transformations in labour? Should labour be seen as a further, renewed form of alienation and exploitation or as an opportunity for emancipation? Does work reinforce individualism or on the contrary does it generate new kinds of solidarity? And if so, how? Do the same issues surface in similar ways in different regions of the world? Does this modify terms of recognition, whether effective or legitimate? How do we now think about impediments to work? What is the current relation between private and public life?

How do these (new) forms of labour, whether manual or intellectual, reflect current political, economic and environmental issues, such as the prevalence of indicators and norms, economic crises, Anthropocene, the reduction of public spending and labour costs, the decline (or disappearance) of wage labour, the rise of self-employment, the reduction of the labour market, the exacerbations of globalized competition, or the prevalence of cognitive capitalism? How do social and individual entities and existences consequently echo them? Do we view these elements as compulsory adaptations to new constraints or on the contrary as occasions to overcome them through invention and resistance? Rather than an analysis of “the diverse ways invented by men to act on their natural environment” (following Maurice Godelier’s conventional formulation), what can we understand of labour from its inscription in an (ecological) environment?

We wish to build this reflection on ethnographic or theoretical works and a specific focus on actors’ subjectivity – understood as their subjective investments and their ways of thinking - through a situational, inductive and multi-scale approach. Possible or expected fields of investigation for this issue will be based in different countries and can, for example, examine new forms of labour and their peripheries, revitalisations made possible by alternative and collective practices, modes of sharing and of solidarity economy, and the connections between concrete activities and economic and political issues. The objective is to question and identify the roles of creation and politics in (new) forms of labour, at a time when enterprise has become the cardinal institution, in the face of environmental problems.

**Submission:**

Article proposals should comprise a title, a summary of two pages and 5 keywords.

To be included are the author's first and last names, positions and institutional affiliations, and email addresses.

Proposals should be sent to the two coordinators of this issue and to the *Journal*:

- Etienne Bourel: [e\\_bourel@yahoo.com](mailto:e_bourel@yahoo.com)
- Judith Hayem: [judith.hayem@univ-lille1.fr](mailto:judith.hayem@univ-lille1.fr)
- *Journal des anthropologues* : [afa@msh-paris.fr](mailto:afa@msh-paris.fr)

**Schedule:**

**Deadline for submission of article proposals: 15 May 2018**

Answer to proposals: June 2018

Sending of first draft articles: 15 November 2018

Sending of articles after evaluation: 15 June 2019

Publication: November 2019