Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
Project "LABOUR"

Labour insecurity is, however, unevenly distributed. Evidence shows that it is higher (almost double) among people active in the agrarian sector. It particularly affects the younger strata of the population and that men and women are affected by labour insecurity in very different ways (ILO, 2017, 2018). Besides, across countries and world regions, the degree to which SDGs have been used to address youth issues and inform national policies varies significantly. This stems, in our view, from two major challenges. First, although a number of approaches that have been used inside the EU and its neighbouring countries (Williams 2017), there has been little, if any, attempt to adapt the existing framework elsewhere. Second, no systematic review of anti-precariousness policy has been attempted beyond the EU region. This is due, in large part, to the lack of regional specialists that can analyse existing data and come up with novel intelligence to better understand a country, a region and eventually propose approaches that can be translated or adapted for other world regions.

LABOUR is a research and training programme designed to address the above-mentioned shortfalls of research and development approaches with particular attention to a region where this is particularly worrying concern. Informal employment in Asia is estimated to account for 68.2% of the active population (ILO 2020), with warnings that the situation will rapidly deteriorate because of the COVID-19 crisis (ILO 2020b). By gathering a team of 14 participants that includes academic and non-academic partners working on labour insecurity, we aim not only at producing specialists on the topic and on the region but also at proposing concrete mitigation measures that can be taken into account by decision-makers and development organisations.

Objectives:
1. To carry out a comprehensive training component allowing participants to gain a specialisation in a new field, sector and discipline(s); this will be used as a base to
2. To explore the nexus between potentially inadequate or ineffective state responses to the rise of job insecurity from a two-fold perspective.
3. To foster Intercultural learning and knowledge sharing approach

Program Schedule

Intercultural Knowledge Sharing Session
28 June 2023
13.00 – 16.00 hrs.
Social Innovation Hub, Chulalongkorn University

13.00-13.15	Registration
13.15-13.20	Introduction of the Programme
13.20-14.00	Presentation by Dr. Abel Polese
	What is informality?: (Mapping) "the art of bypassing the state" across the globe.
14.00-14.40	Presentation by Dr. Danny Marks
	Unequal and unjust: The political ecology of Bangkok's increasing heat
14.40-15.20	Presentation by Dr. Robert Gillanders
	Police Corruption and Crime: Evidence from Africa
15.20-15.40	Discussants
15.40-16.00	Q & A

Presentation 1: What is informality?: (Mapping) "the art of bypassing the state" across the globe

Abel Polese
Tallin University

Abstract:

Despite a growing number of studies featuring "informality" in their title, including many from the post-socialist region, little has been done to reach a consensus on what informality means, how to measure it and, more generally, to develop it into a widely agreed and shared theorization. Instead, and paradoxically, given that a significant number of studies rely on intuitive understandings of the phenomenon, often intended as "the opposite of formal", this increased attention to informality has contributed to topical confusion rather than better defining what informality may be. By surveying and cross-comparing regional and world literature on informality, this article attempts to provide a coherent framework for delineating and understanding "informality studies", outlining its main characteristics and eventually better understand its applicability and boundaries. While doing this, it calls for more attention to the political dimensions of informality and ways in which measurement of informality can be used both as a proxy for quality of governance and a deeper grasping of state–citizen relations.

Presentation 2: Unequal and unjust: The political ecology of Bangkok's increasing heat.

Danny Marks
Dublin City University

Abstract:

The intensity of Bangkok's urban heat island during the dry season can be as high as 6–7° and in the densest areas the urban heat island's intensity is approximately 4°C. The urban heat island thus is causing a city with already oppressively hot to become even hotter. The urban heat island also contributes to health problems, such as heat stroke and fatigue, particularly to those with lower incomes. We historically examine the numerous causes of Bangkok's urban heat island, such as the lack of green space, high levels of air conditioning, and high rates of vehicle exhaust fumes. For example, Bangkok has only three square metres of green space per person which is one of the lowest in all of Asia. Local governmental weaknesses, administrative fragmentation, prioritisation of economic growth and limited buy-in from the private sector have intensified Bangkok's urban heat island, and imposed numerous barriers to actions that would reduce heat, such as establishing green space, restructuring urban transport or creating and following an effective urban plan. Ideas mooted to remedy these problems have yet to come to fruition, largely because of bureaucratic inertia, fragmentation and divisions within the relevant lead organisations. The political ecology lens also reveals how political–economic processes largely determine the vulnerability of urban inhabitants to heat, but also that thermal governance is highly unequal and unjust. Those who contribute to and profit the most from Bangkok's urban heat island, such as real estate developers, shopping mall owners, and automobile corporations, suffer the least from its effects, whereas low-income communities and informal workers hardly contribute to this problem, yet are the most vulnerable.

Presentation 3: Police Corruption and Crime: Evidence from Africa

Robert Gillanders
Dublin City University

Abstract

Using data from the Afrobarometer surveys, this paper finds that people living in regions in which police corruption is more prevalent are more likely to report that they or someone in their family have been victims of physical assault. People living in more corrupted regions are also more likely to report that they or someone in their family has had something stolen from their home. We find no statistically significant gender differences in the average marginal effects. Controlling for the incidence of corruption in other domains reduces the size of the estimated association but does not render it insignificant in terms of statistical significance or magnitude. Non-police corruption is also strongly associated with an increased risk of crime. For both types of crime, the evidence points to "transactional" police corruption (having to pay bribes to get help) rather than "predatory" police corruption (having to pay bribes to avoid problems) as driving the relationship. Finally, we show that, controlling for whether the respondent reports being a victim of either type of crime, police corruption predicts an increase in the probability that the respondent reports feeling unsafe while walking in their own neighborhood thus imposing a cost even on those who have not been victims.