

CfP. Employment in precarious times: coping strategies and emotional imprints

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In today's rapidly shifting world of work, a stark divide has emerged between meaningful, well-paid, and prestigious jobs on one hand; and a growing mass of precarious, temporary, and exploitative work on the other. This gap has only widened with the expansion of control technologies — algorithms, platforms, and AI — that further complicate the landscape. The erosion of stable jobs, high unemployment rates, weak welfare systems, and the fraying of social ties, has pushed more and more people into precarity. This trend, already worrisome, has been exacerbated by the recent pandemic crisis.

Building on the 9th ICAES call (1973), this panel also aims to reconsider and expand our understanding of the intersections between anthropology, labor, and mental well-being. We are interested in examining how insecurity, fragmentation, and fragility in both work and life manifest at local, regional, and national levels. This includes how specific professions, communities, and vulnerable social groups navigate these challenges and how individuals shape their biographies under such precarious conditions.

Our primary focus is on ethnographic and context-rich research, but we also welcome theoretical and methodological contributions that address the following themes:

- The everyday life of precarious workers.
- The search for “prestigious” or stable employment.
- Complexities of youth precarity.
- Intersections of class and gender during precarious times.
- Processes of self-making and identity in the context of insecure work.
- Affective labor and social reproduction under precarity.
- Ethical and political dimensions of fieldwork in precarious settings.
- Envisioning the future of work—what kind of labor conditions and social systems do we imagine?

This thematic block will shed light on the diverse experiences of individuals and communities grappling with precarious conditions while fostering a broader discussion on the future of work, care, and social cohesion.

The thematic issue will consist of 10 selected papers that should be ready to publish by the **end of September 2025** (final deadline).

This Thematic Issue originated during the recent EASA conference held in Barcelona last July 2024. Reana Senjković was the convenor of panel **P012: *Employment in Precarious Times: Coping Strategies, Emotional Imprints***, while Hugo Valenzuela-Garcia co-organized the panel **P024: *Precarious lifestyles: underemployment, emotional damage, and relational vulnerability in neoliberal labour markets***. Following our shared interests, we decided to co-edit a thematic section in the journal *Narodna Umjetnost* (NU)

If you're interested in contributing, please send us a message **before October 31st, 2024**, so we can provide submission guidelines.