



Creative labour revisited: cultural production in distinct institutional environments

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Address: Gallery of Experimental Sound-21, Pushkinskaya str. 10 (entrance from Ligovsky pr., 53), Museum wing, 3rd floor, St. Petersburg, Russia

Over the last 20 years a number of studies was devoted to creative professionals: artists, designers, IT-specialists, journalists (Menger 1999; Littleton, Taylor 2012; Mcrobbie 2011, 2013; Forkert 2010; Gill, Pratt 2008; Gill 2011), they showed high level of risk and inequality behind the bohemian charm, earlier promoted by creative industries ideology. The central concept of cultural (creative) labour studies would be precariousness - a fickle, unstable employment without social guarantees. However, many topics remain uncovered. Firstly, previous research experience was largely focused on self-employed and contract professionals, and in many cases excludes other categories of cultural workers, i.e. those who are employed full-time (in visual arts - art-managers, institutional curators, workers of museum/gallery archives, pr-support and so on) despite they have many common features with other creatives (self-exploitation, blurring boundaries of work and leisure activities) and some unique characteristics as increase in personal responsibility and self-identification with the organization. Secondly, the current wave of studies was devoted mostly to the UK situation on a very specific stage – so called «golden age» of New Labour’s cultural policy, which is now over. Thirdly, labor regimes in cultural organizations and projects are rarely consider as the result of collective activity, where cultural producers design the workplace together by establishing formal rules and informal practices, creating hierarchies, organizational structures, defining the boundaries of working and non-working space and time.

The workshop aims to put creative labour into global context and explore how it transforms in different institutional, political and cultural environments, as well as to see gender, industry, working mode and other dimensions of it. The workshop also gives voice to creatives themselves: the seminar program includes presentations of cultural workers and activists.

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