
Moving Goods: An Investigation into Labour Exploitation in the Logistic Sector

Livia Brusaglioni*¹

¹University of Florence (Unifi) – Via delle pandette 22 Firenze, Italy

Abstract

This paper presents an investigation into power relations in the work place in the logistic sector in Italy. The sector has been subject to a wave of strikes and trade union actions in recent years, particularly in the Pianura Padana area. Although, the protests have been documented, the analysis of working conditions is rare. Not enough consideration has been given, furthermore, to the concept of "labour exploitation" in this specific sector. In this paper, we will present an empirical research carried out in the area of Tuscany, through in-depth interviews with three kinds of workers: truckers, couriers and warehouse workers. A photoshoot was produced to accompany the research; photographs were taken of workers claiming their rights during strikes organised by the Trade Union. Video interviews of workers expressing their point of view on power relations in their work place were also recorded. The research analyses the working conditions of the interviewees and demonstrates how a model of labour exploitation has emerged in this sector, transversal to the three compartments analysed.

Keywords: power relations, work place, labour exploitation, logistic, trade union, photo

*Speaker