

Comments by Vladan Jeremic from the Debate on cultural workers condition in Spain and Serbia on 26-27 June 2011, Belgrade, Serbia  
Organized by Cultural Centre Rex, Radical Education Collective and Workers' Inquiry Group.

The idea of Radical Education Collective and Workers' Inquiry Group to initiate such inquiry about working conditions in Museo Centro de Arte Reina Sofía is a good example what we could gain by using Marxist methodologies and relevant strategies from the past. Their inquiry enabled us to understand the way how Reina Sofía uses and produces legally undefined conditions to gain free work from the post-graduate or Phd students. It is important to separate students and other precarious workers who are working in precarious conditions for the museum.

As we learned from the past, capitalist profit is generated most fastly from legally non-defined work and working conditions. Greedy capitalist atmosphere is looking for the precarious working conditions. One of the main task of the cultural workers (artists, theorists, curators, producers, managers, other workers) is to fight for legal and proper working conditions within the field of cultural production and wider.

I strongly support this kind of methods and inquiries but this can be seen only as a first step of action. Second step is very complex and until now never got to know any group in Europe that has made this huge step and redefined the matrix of production to combat precarious working conditions or joined trade-unions which acknowledge precarious work and cultural production as a part of working labor issue.

One of my conclusions from the discussion was that most of classical trade-unions are not able to map precarious work and working conditions as bigger issue that could be very important aspect for critic and redefinition.

It became also clear that it is important to establish international trade-union of precarious cultural workers, but until now no serious steps are made.

As we have heard during the discussion of me and my colleagues from Serbia, situation is very bad in organizing or even mapping to the end what happened to us. Unfortunately until now, there is no wider platform in organizing seriously about precarious working conditions of cultural workers in Serbia.