



**EMAR - EFLR**  
**Emek Araştırmaları Vakfı**  
**Easdale Foundation for Labour Research**

## Building capitalism

Historical change and the labour process in the production of built environment

*Linda Clarke, Westminster University*



Drawing on examples from the construction sector, divergences in the post-war development of labour differences - in particular between Britain and (West) Germany - in the nature of wage relations in the post-war era, in the division of labour and in the vocational education and training (VET) systems will be outlined. This reveals divergent values accorded to labour and distinct institutional support structures and means of reproducing labour. It is shown how in Britain, since the 1970s, the progressive development of building labour stalled with continued adherence to traditional trade divisions, reassertion of managerial prerogative and the decline in direct employment, collective bargaining and training.

Today, however, in all countries the labour process and VET are in a process of rapid change, marked by employer disengagement from training, a transformation in employer-employee relations, and new demands for energy efficiency, digitalisation and prefabrication. A stark contrast is evident between a labour process where labour is exploited as a commodity and one which builds on the potential capacity or power of labour.

### ALL WELCOME

**Linda Clarke** is Professor of European Industrial Relations in the Westminster Business School (WBS) and responsible for a distinct programme of research in the Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment (ProBE), She is on the Board of the European Centre for Construction Labour Research (CLR), and a Trustee for London Hazards Centre.

### SEMINAR SERIES

No 14

Friday, 24 November 2017

6:30pm - 8:30pm

#### VENUE:

Meeting Room 3,  
Finsbury Park Trust FinSpace  
225-229 Seven Sisters Rd,  
Finsbury Park, London,  
N4 2DA

Easdale Foundation for Labour Research

Correspondence Address: 152 Fairfax Road, London, N8 0NL, UK

[bilgi@emarvakfi.org](mailto:bilgi@emarvakfi.org) | [www.emarvakfi.org](http://www.emarvakfi.org)