



"W(h)ither the working class identity, organisation and action?"

By **Roger Seifert**, University of Wolverhampton



Starting from a classical Marxist categorisation of the working-class -- those that sell their labour time in a labour market (they are not slaves nor serfs) and their dependents -- our task is to uncover the current composition of the working-class. This excludes sole traders and small capitalists as well as owners of land and capital for economic purposes, but might include some self-employed especially in the 'gig' economy.

The numbers and type of citizens within such groups changes over time and from place to place. This is the objective reality, but as we know, the class has to be a class for itself -- identifying with the class above and beyond other issues such as ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. Identity then helps create institutional and organisational representation of class as part of the class struggle and as a reflection of class culture and values -- trade unions, political parties, and various pressure groups either in single issues such as peace, climate change, gay rights, abortion, mental health; and wider groups such as research, educational, and publications. Finally for now we need to examine modes and methods of action -- through struggle inside organisations, within work places, and on the streets.

ALL WELCOME!

Prof Roger Seifert read PPE at Oxford University, then a MBA at London Business School, and a PhD in industrial relations at LSE. He worked as a management consultant in London before joining Keele University. He was professor of industrial relations there from 1993-2010 and took the same job at Wolverhampton University from 2010-2019. His main research areas include industrial relations, trade unions, strikes, the political economy of wages, state power, and the public sector. He has worked for several unions including PCS, UNISON, RMT, FBU, UNITE, NUM, and the Police Federation. He is a regular contributor to the BBC, Sky News, and LBC on strikes, trade unions and the Labour Party.

SEMINAR SERIES

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Friday, 25 October 2019

6:30pm - 8:30pm

VENUE:

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