



The Department of Anthropology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

**Rutvica ANDRIJASEVIC**

Associate Professor of Management  
University of Bristol  
United Kingdom

on

# ‘Disappearing Workers’: Foxconn in Europe and the Changing Role of Temporary Work Agencies

Friday, 4 March 2016

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 2, Mong Man Wai Building  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

\*\*\*\*\*

In this talk I will investigate the role of Temporary Work Agencies (TWAs) at Foxconn’s assembly plants in the Czech Republic. Drawing on the ethnographic fieldwork, I will show TWAs’ comprehensive management of migrant labour: recruitment and selection in the countries of origin, cross-border transportation, work and living arrangements in the country of destination, and return to the countries of origin during periods of low production. The talk asks whether the distinctiveness of this specific mode of labour management can be understood adequately within the framework of existing theories on the temporary staffing industry. In approaching the staffing industry through the lens of migration labour analysis, the article reveals two key findings. Firstly, TWAs are creating new labour markets but do so by eroding workers’ rights and enabling new modalities of exploitation. Secondly, the diversification of TWAs’ roles and operations transformed TWAs from intermediaries between capital and labour to enterprises in their own right.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME