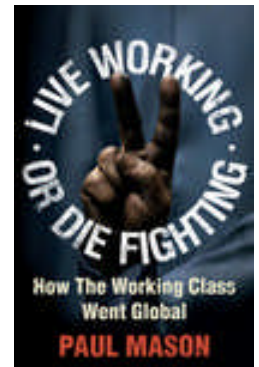




WLRI Trade Union Seminar Series 2008

Organising Vulnerable Workers—past & present

- **Paul Mason, Author 'Live Working or Die Fighting' & BBC Newsnight correspondent**
- **Donna Reeve, Migrant Worker Support Unit, & Andy Gilchrist, Union Learning Organiser, Unite (T&G)**



Wed 16 April 2008, 5-7pm

Paul Mason, with Donna Reeve and her colleague Andy Gilchrist from UNITE the Union (T&G section), will talk about past and present struggles to organise vulnerable workers. Donna and Andy will introduce their latest work organising Migrant workers in UNITE the Union, and report on the successful use of Union Learning and ESOL as a tool for organising in the **Learning for Organising Migrant Workers Project**. Paul Mason, BBC Newsnight's Business and Industry Correspondent, will draw some historical parallels to the struggle for unionising vulnerable workers, introducing his book **'Live Working or Die Fighting.'**

INTRO TO LIVE WORKING OR DIE FIGHTING: 'A Chinese woman pushes her way to the front of a hiring queue outside a factory in Shenzhen.....A group of Somali cleaners files into an investment bank in London's Canary Wharf...Globalisation has created a whole new working class — and they are reliving stories that were first played out a century ago. In "Live Working or Die Fighting", Paul Mason tells the story of this new working class alongside the epic history of the global labour movement, from its formation in the factories of the 1800s to its near destruction by fascism in the 1930s. Blending exhilarating historical narrative with reportage from today's front line, he links the lives of 19th-century factory girls with the lives of teenagers in a giant Chinese mobile phone factory; he tells the story of how mass trade unions were born in London's Docklands - and how they're being reinvented by the migrant cleaners in skyscrapers that stand on the very same spot. "Live Working or Die Fighting" celebrates a common history of defiance, idealism and self-sacrifice, one as alive and active today as it was two hundred years ago. It is a unique and inspirational book.'

Walden Bello, author of Dilemmas of Domination: the Unmaking of the American Empire: "...reveals the profound continuity in the conditions, hopes, and challenges of the international working class...Micro-historical writing at its best."



Greg Palast, Author of ARMED MADHOUSE: "If you haven't read Mason's book, you know nothing... breathtaking, fascinating, perceptive... Damn, I wish I'd written this"

**WLRI: London Metropolitan University, 31 Jewry St,
London EC3N 2EY 5-7pm in Room JS2-73**

This event is free, open to all, and there is no need to register.

Contact Max Watson in JS2-77 for further enquiries:

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