

Title: Waves of Resistance in the Colombian Flower Industry

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This presentation focuses on collective resistance to precarious forms of labour in the context of the Colombian fresh-cut flower industry (CFI). For decades, groups of workers led by women in many different plantations of the CFI have engaged in unionization efforts, with partially successful results. Unionization has been undertaken with the support of diverse national and transnational NGOs and community organizations, representative of ‘new social movements.’ The latter have also used new local and transnational strategies besides unionization to alter precarious forms of labour in the CFI. The author examines those diverse strategies and argues that the resistance movement in the CFI is a manifestation of networking and the convergence between new social movements and organized labour. Additionally, the resistance movement and the plight and struggle of CFI workers have been globalized through the actions of diverse transnational actors and the deployment of transnational strategies. In spite of these important and welcomed developments, combinations of interlocking and interconnected strategies to contest the power relations of patriarchy and racism, in intersectional terms with those based on waged-labour struggles, are necessary to fundamentally transform the dynamics of racialized and feminized labour practices in the CFI.

Keywords: feminization of labour, racialization of labour, Colombian Flower Industry