

MARXIST POLITICAL ECONOMY WORKSHOP

**Trade unions and climate change :  
The jobs versus environment dilemma**

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# CHALLENGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

- INDUSTRIAL UNIONS IN COUNTRIES OF GLOBAL SOUTH AND NORTH, AFFECT DIRECTLY  FOCUS ON THEIR WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE ABOUT POLICIES!
- LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES  NOT ADEQUATE POLICIES BY KEY AGENTS
- PROTECTION OF WORK? AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT?  REGULATION





# Environment & Employment



why resist? Industry tends to resist environmental regulations arguing that **impact negatively on competitiveness and threaten jobs** ( Goodstein, 1999).

PORTER

POLLUTION HAVEN

2 hypotheses that discuss environmental legislation, employment and competitiveness. IN FAVOR OF REGULATION, BUT LITTLE EMPHASIS AT MACRO & SOCIAL - LEVEL

IMPORTANT!

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN POORER AND RICHER COUNTRIES



## HOW CAN UNIONS TRADE OFFICIALS CAN RECONCILE WORKERS' INTERESTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS?



### POINTS ON AGENDA

- HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES
- CAPACITY ON TRIPARTITE SYSTEM: GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS'
- UNIONS HAVE TO BE INVOLVED ON IMPROVMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO BOTH



The legitimacy of immediate interests: when workers talk to each other instead of being talked to

Beyond the technological fix: social transformation

## DISCOURSES CHALLENGING THE DILEMMA

There is no conflict – the “technological fix” perspective

General interests

