

Sex Entertainment Venues: Regulating Working Conditions

In a recent ESRC project (RES-000-22-3163), *The Regulatory Dance: Structural Integration of Sexual Consumption into the Night Time Economy*, involving a large scale survey of 200 dancers and follow up interviews with 35 dancers and 60 other people involved in the industry two important findings came out of the research. First, that the status of 'self employed' is misleading. Financial exploitation from management was a concern expressed by participants: fees paid to work in the club were often high, along with random fines, internal tipping systems, and the threat of instant dismissal made conditions unfair. In some of the less organised venues, women were concerned about safety. Secondly, the majority of dancers were young, single women under 30 years of age, and were also in other forms of low paid jobs and/or were also studying. For all of the participants, dancing was considered a highly flexible job but insecure job. Therefore dancing was used strategically to manoeuvre out of precarious employment prospects and to build a more secure and financially stable future.

This project aims to disseminate the findings of the research through the following 4 activities:

- *Policy/Practitioner, Business & Labour Organisation Seminars*
- *Employment Rights and Tax Awareness Educational Programme in partnership with HM Revenue & Customs (for dancers).*
- *Safety Information and Guidance for dancers in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, Community Safety Team*
- *Review & Synthesis of International Policy Evidence on Licensing of Sexual Entertainment*