



GUESTWORK PROGRAMS AND THE JOB CENTRIFUGATION DYNAMIC : A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

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SUMMARY

1. Context : the « job centrifugation dynamic » in Canada
2. Guestwork programs in Canada : evolutions
3. Raising issues



CONTEXT : FROM FULL-EMPLOYMENT TO THE JOB'S CENTRIFUGATION DYNAMIC

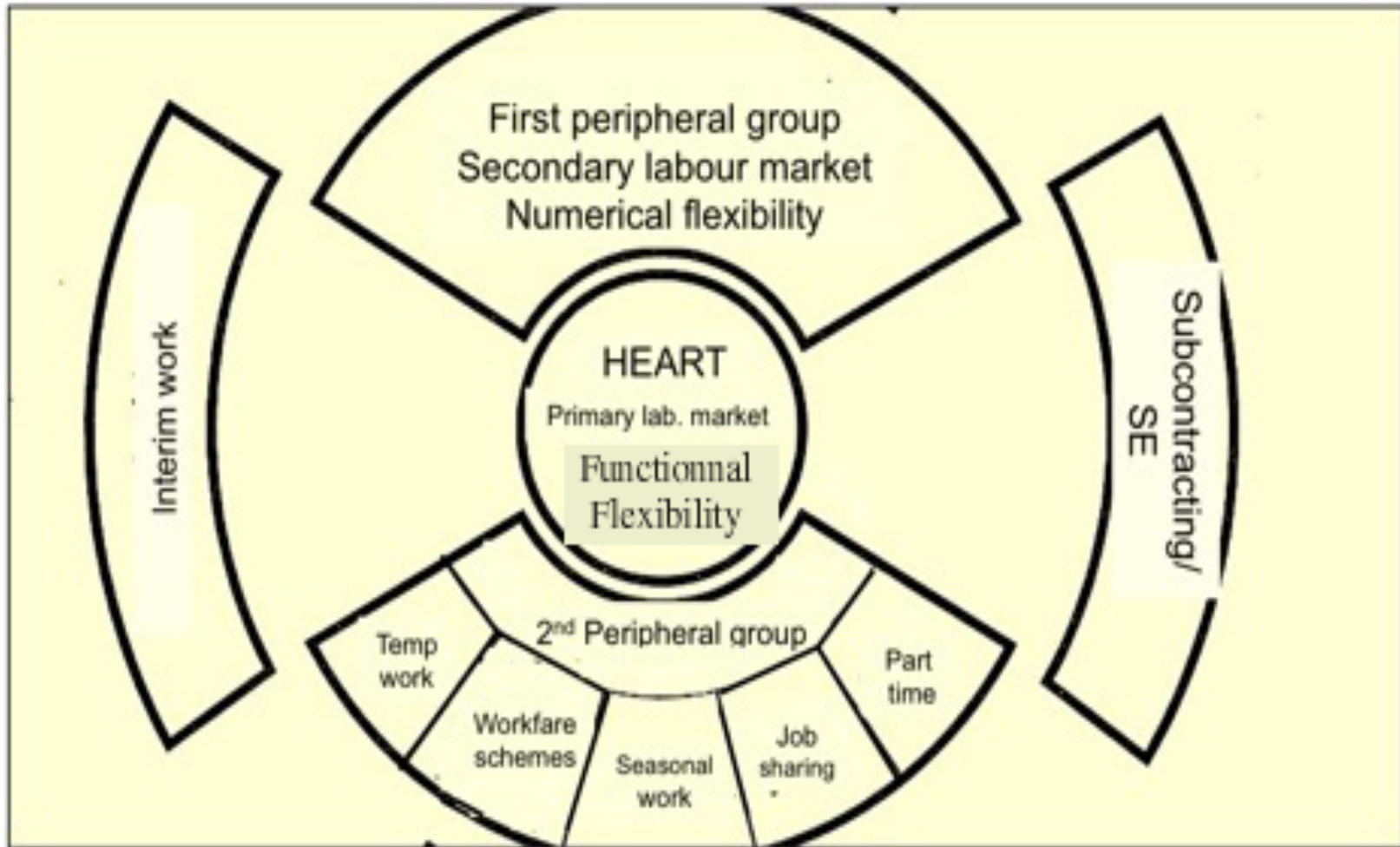
- The “Fordist compromise”, a social pact between government, business and workers (and unions)
- Embedding markets by regulating labour
- Objective: full employment and sharing the benefits of growth.

- **The neoliberal turn in the early 1980s**

- **Applied to labour markets, deregulation becomes flexibilization/casualization**

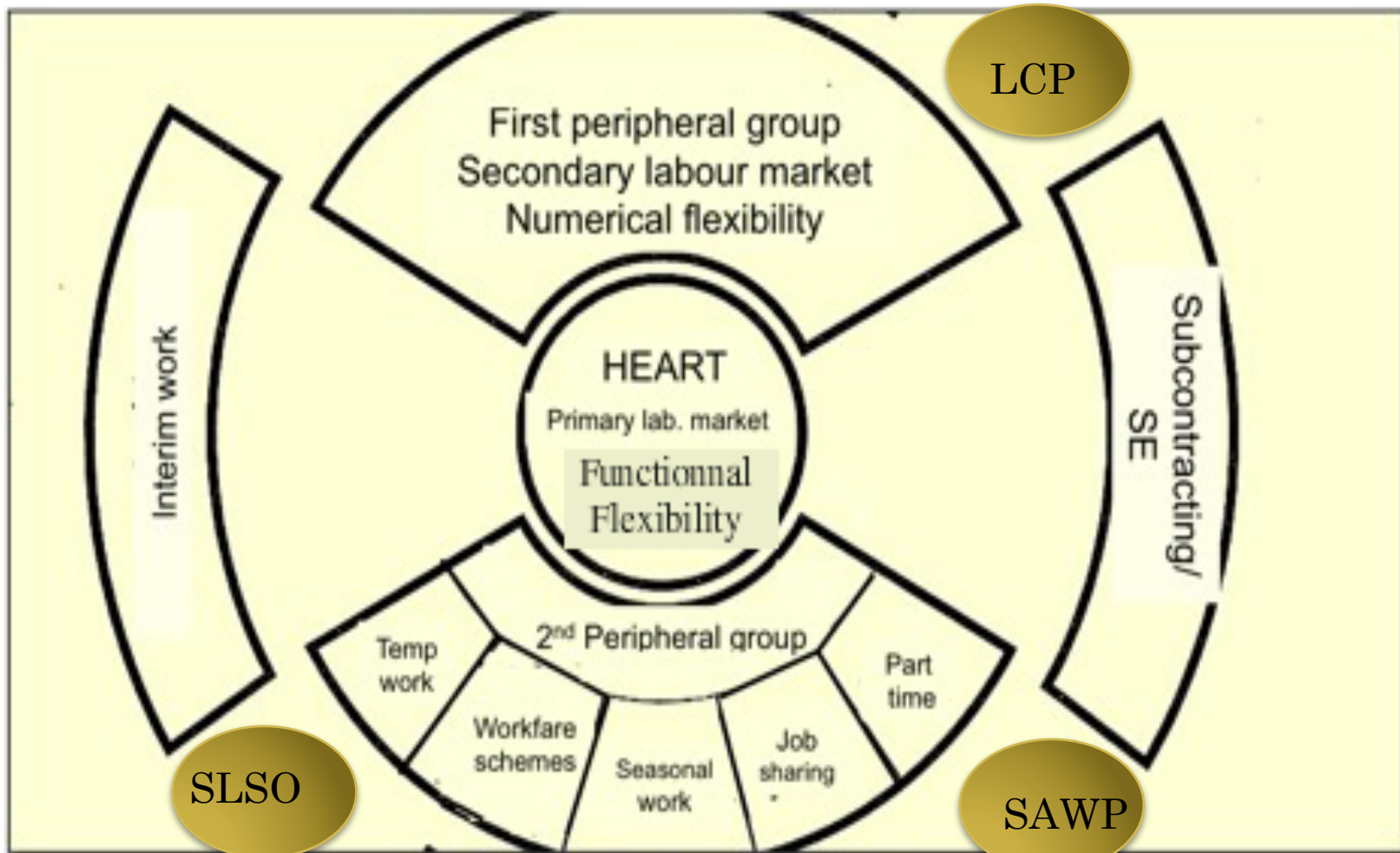


THE PARTITION OF « SALARIAT CLASSIQUE »



- Reference : Durand, Jean-Pierre. 2004. *La chaîne invisible, Travailler aujourd'hui : Flux tendu et servitude volontaire*, Éditions du Seuil, Paris, p. 185.

DURANDS' JOBS CENTRIFUGATION DYNAMIC



- LCP : Live-in Caregivers programs
- SLSO : Stream for lower-skilled occupations
- SAWP: Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program

PART II : GUESTWORK PROGRAMS IN CANADA

- 1) Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP)
- 2) Live-in Caregivers program (LCP)
- 3) Stream for lower-skilled occupations (SLSO)



2A. SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PROGRAM (SAWP)

1. Launched in 1966 (with 1200 workers)
2. 28 000 new workers in 2013.
3. Mostly male, except strawberries
4. Self-regulation since 1987 (F.A.R.M.S)
5. Work permit attached to a single employer
6. Institutionalization of a cheap labour pool
7. Competition between "labour exporting countries"
8. Very difficult working conditions
9. Very limited access to social protection and collective bargaining
10. Subject to biopanoptism



2B. LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS PROGRAM (LCP)

1. Workers are no longer provided permanent residency upon arrival.
2. Mainly female migrant workers from the Philippines.
3. About 17000 working in Canada in 2013 (under the LCP)
4. Work permit attached to a single employer
5. Need to work 24 months in a period of 36 months to be able to ask for permanent residency status
6. Deskilling
7. Long and hard workdays, many accidents, isolation limiting strongly any collective action
8. For Langevin and Belleau (2000). LCP is institutionalized state sponsored women trafficking.



2C. STREAM FOR LOWER-SKILLED OCCUPATIONS (SLSO)

1. Relatively new
2. Progressive growth of the program
3. Lengthening of work permit (from 1 to 2 year)
4. 1304 in 2002; 40 000 in 2014
5. Difficult conditions, abuse
6. Use to curb unions ; instrumentalized to reform EI
7. Minor cosmetic reforms in june 2014 as « damage control » against media attention.



RAISING ISSUES

1. Creation of a category of second-class migrants.
2. Embed in a structural exploitative dynamic of the South by the North.
3. Migrant labor as a “transmission belt” stirring competition between workers in Canada and abroad.
4. An "interventionist" neoliberal state: IT IS NOT « LAISSEZ-FAIRE »
5. Derogatory labour regime use as a destructive vector of universalist labours laws.
6. Gendered centrifugation, precarization and rehierarchization of labour markets.
7. The « circulation » of temporary migrant workers as "a new productive combinatoire » with deleterious effects.



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