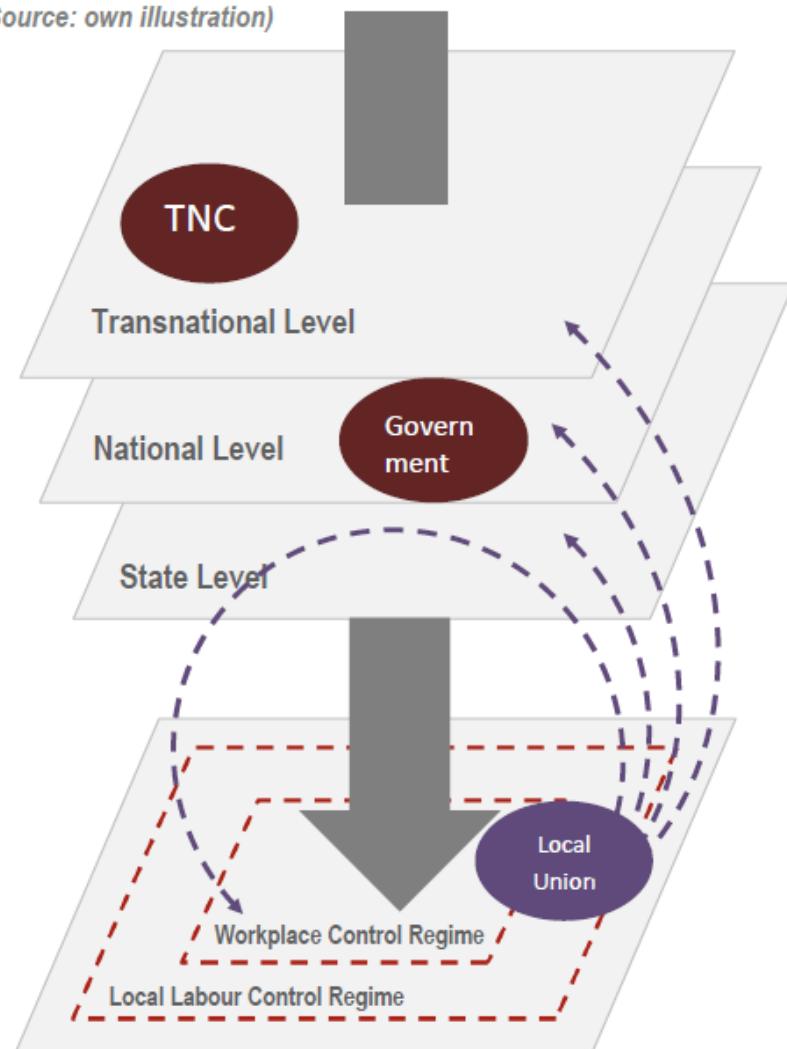


Labour Control Regime and Union Agency in the Bangalore Ready-Made Garment Cluster

The aim of this research project is to examine the relationship between labour control and union agency in the Indian ready-made garment industry. Due to the structured antagonism at the centre of the capitalist employment relationship, strategies for labour control are needed to suppress workers' resistance and, thus, to produce (relatively) stable accumulation regimes. However, while the labour process itself is always localized at the point of production, its specific (exploitative) nature is also shaped by the wider political-economic and social relations, in which the labour process is embedded. This is especially true for globally integrated industries, which are characterized by fragmented and geographically dispersed production networks coordinated by transnational companies. As a result, unions' strategies of resistance in global industries, such as the garment industry, need to target not only actors at the site of production but also other actors within the global production network.

Using an extended case study qualitative methodological approach, the research project analyses through the lens of the ready-made garment cluster in Bangalore how structures of labour control are co-produced by the political and economic practices of state, capital and civil society actors at different levels within the global production network and how these in turn shape opportunities for union agency. Building on

Fig. 1: Multi-Level-Connectivity of Labour Control Regime
(Source: own illustration)



this, it examines how local unions use and construct multiple sites of agency and evaluates the extent to which different union practices are able to influence the nature of the labour process.

The research project integrates theoretical concepts from labour geography as well as from global production networks, labour process and practice theory. Empirical data are gathered from qualitative interviews with government, firm, union and NGO representatives as well as from participatory observations in factory and union activities.

Forschungsgruppe: Prof. Dr. Martina Fuchs, Dipl. Reg. Wiss Tatiana López Ayala

Methodik: Qualitative Interviews, teilnehmende Beobachtung

Projektlaufzeit: Juli 2015 – Juni 2021

Veröffentlichungen: López Ayala, T.: Dissertation geplant für 2021
