

# Workers without Borders

## Posted Work and Precarity in the EU

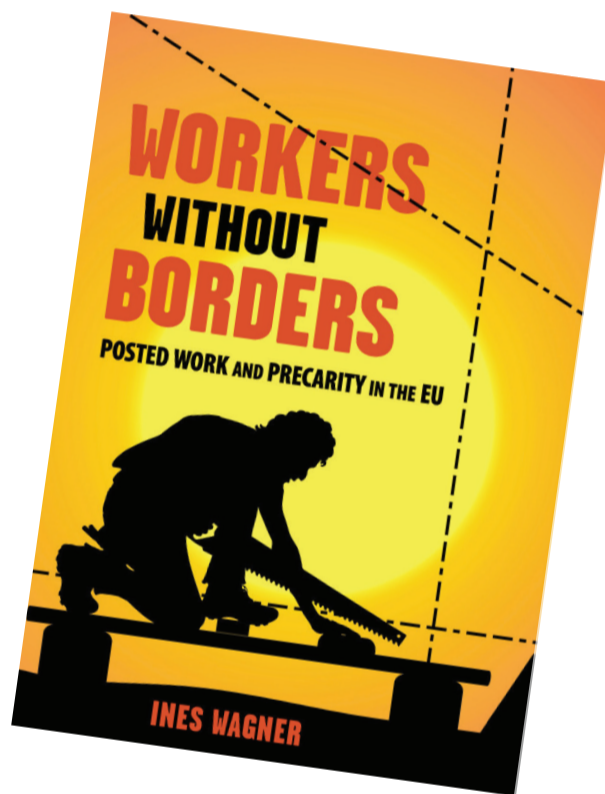
Ines Wagner (Cornell University Press, 2018)

*Based on 30 interviews with posted workers and key actors in the German construction and slaughterhouse industry, Wagner contrasts the ideal EU policy world with lived experiences of posted work. A posted worker carries out work in another member state while maintaining a regular employment relationship in their home country.*

There are **more than 2 million posted workers in the EU.**



**The ideal EU policy world**, where the posted workers have a certain set of rights, **contrasts with reality.**



**In the real world**, many posted workers:

- Must accept any job, with no permanent employment
- Do not get their minimum rights enforced in the host state
- Are afraid to voice their rights, in fear of employer retaliation and unemployment

## POSTED WORK CAUSES PRECARITY

### The workers feel they have no voice

"If I don't accept it, someone else will come. Everyone is easily and readily replaceable".



Interview with Polish posted worker.

### The state authorities have few means

"The investigative power of the labor inspection stops at the German border on the grounds that they have to respect state sovereignty".



Interview with labor inspection representative