



International Sociological Association
RC44 - Research Committee on Labour Movements (2023-2027)
e-Newsletter January 2024

Message from RC44 Vice-President for Communications:

Welcome to RC44's monthly newsletters for 2024! 😊. As we begin the year, please note the following reminders:

(1) We have made some additions in our approach to social media. As well as our existing presence on [Twitter/X](#) and [Facebook](#), we now have a [LinkedIn page](#) and a presence on Blue Sky Social (our handle is [@labourrc44@bsky.social](#)). Please note that the latter is an invite-only platform. (You need an invite code to set up an account. I have some if you want to join, so please contact me if you want one!) For those on these sites, please follow and promote us! (More information about our new website will be provided very soon.)

(2) A reminder that you are **strongly encouraged** to invite colleagues and comrades to join this e-list, including fellow researchers, academics and students of labour, work, employment and labour movements (and related fields), as well as trade unionists, NGO and movement activists, practitioners, etc. It's easy! You can invite them yourself (or, alternatively, tell them to sign up directly by signing up to [googlegroups](#) and searching for 'rc-44', or just email a request to tom.barnes@acu.edu.au).

(3) Items for the newsletter are encouraged and welcomed, e.g., new or forthcoming publications, upcoming events, calls for papers or abstracts, job posts, links to reports about labour movement activities, or other relevant news/announcements, etc.

Publications

Book

Now available in Chinese: Eli D. FRIEDMAN (2024) [The Urbanisation of People: The Politics of development, labor markets, and schooling in the Chinese city](#). National Taiwan University Press (original English version published by Columbia University Press in 2022)

Journal Articles

Global Labour Journal

New issue out now!!

January 2024 (Vol. 15, No. 1)

Contributors: Jörg Nowak, Felix Syrovatka, William Tilleczek, Sarah Waters, Tom Barnes, Jannis Eicker, *plus the Editors*

Xiaotian LI and Jenny CHAN (2024) [Migrate to \(not\) be ‘gurus’: Unpacking workplace masculinity in China’s tech sector](#). *Gender, Work & Organization* Online First

Alessandra, MEZZADRI (2024). [Value theories in motion: Circular labour migration, unfinished land dispossession and reproductive struggles across the urban–rural divide](#). *Environment and Planning F* Online First

Charles, UMNEY, *et al* (2024) [Platform labour unrest in a global perspective: How, where and why do platform workers protest?](#) *Work, Employment and Society* Online First

Steven P. VALLAS and Anne-Kathrin KRONBERG (2023) [Coercion, consent, and class consciousness: How workers respond to Amazon’s production regime](#). *Socius*, 9

Alpkan, BIRELMA, Ebru IŞIKLI, and Huseyin Deniz SERT (2023) [The stubborn persistence of working-class protest in Turkey in an age of authoritarian neoliberalism](#). *Turkish Studies* 25(1): 1-28

David PEETZ (2023) [Can and how should the gig worker loophole be closed?](#) *Economic and Labour Relations Review* 34:4.

Will KENDALL, *et al* (2023) [In conversation with Dr Alina-Sandra Cucu: On interdisciplinarity, history and difficult legacies](#). *New Sociological Perspectives* 3(2): 101-114.

Reports

Beth GUTELIUS and Sanjay PINTO (2023) [Pain Points: Data on work intensity, monitoring, and health at Amazon warehouses](#). Center for Urban Economic Development, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Podcast

Delivery Exception: a series bringing together scholars and organizers to talk about supply chain justice: Organised by Matthew Hockenberry, Department of Communication and Media Studies, Fordham University, NY

For full details of guest speakers throughout February and March 2024, please visit: <https://supplystudies.com/delivery-exception/>.

Call for Papers: Special Issue

Work Organisation, Labour & Globalisation Special Issue on ‘[New Worlds of Logistical Labour – spaces, places, technologies, workers.](#)’

Deadline for submission of full papers: 1 March 2024.

This special issue aims to assemble papers located at the interface between studies of work, labour and the evolving field of critical logistics. It intends to address the core question: what exactly is *new* about ‘new’ work and labour in logistics? The special issue will be edited by Tom

Barnes (Australian Catholic University), Christopher O'Neill (Monash University, Australia) and Lauren Kelly (RMIT University, Australia). Questions about the special issue, including the suitability of potential papers, can be directed, in the first instance, to tom.barnes@acu.edu.au. Papers should be submitted to the editor: ursulahuws@analyticapublications.co.uk

The Sociological Review [Call for Expressions of Interest for forthcoming Special Section on '45 Years of Manufacturing Consent.'](#)

Deadline for expressions of interest: 1 April 2024. Applicants will be advised of outcomes in late April 2024. If accepted, applicants will have until 9 September 2024 to submit complete papers for peer review.

Focused on sociologist Michael Burawoy's 1979 book *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the labor process under monopoly capitalism*. The aim of this forthcoming Special Section is to reassess and critically engage with this landmark work and its ongoing influence, more than four decades on. In revisiting this text, the editors are looking for papers that engage with themes of worker experiences and the labour process in the 21st century, and we particularly welcome contributions that address global power imbalances between the Global North and Global South.

Call for Papers

The section of Work, Organization and Economics (WOE) for *Sociology Compass* is now commissioning review articles for 2024 and will highly welcome contributions made by members/supporters of ISA RC44. *Sociology Compass* publishes peer-reviewed, clearly-written articles that summarize the state of a sub-field for both specialist and non-specialists. Please consider submitting a review article to discuss any specific research issues and/or general theme of labor movements which might be of interest to specialists as well as non-specialists. Most articles are invited submissions (subjected to two peer reviews). Authors should write succinct (around 5,000 words) and accessible overviews that make an argument. You can find *Sociology Compass* online at www.sociology-compass.com. In case you have any query on this call for papers, please feel free to contact the section editor, Prof Byoung-Hoon Lee (bhlee@cau.ac.kr).

Call for Abstracts: Conference

British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) Conference: '[Industrial Relations in the Era of Multiple Crises](#)'.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: February 14, 2024.

Conference Date: July 16-19, 2024

Venue: Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), School of Business and Management

VII International Conference on '[Social Boundaries of Work: Critical Labour Studies in a Time of Polycrisis](#)'.

Organisers: Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław

Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 1, 2024. (Thematic group proposals may also be submitted by January 15, 2024.)

Conference Date: October 16-18, 2024

Venue: Wrocław, Poland

Symposium: [Future of Work in the Global South and Global North](#)

Organiser: Dr Lutfun Nahar Lata, University of Melbourne.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 10, 2024.

Conference Date: May 2-3, 2024

Venue: Online via zoom & in-person at the University of Melbourne, Australia

Conference on '[Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work](#)'.

Organisers: Cornell University-King's College London Global Hub Project

Deadline for submission of abstracts (approx. 1000 words): March 15, 2024.

Conference Date: September 12-13, 2024. (Papers will be considered for special issue of *ILR Review*.)

Venue: Cornell University, Ithaca NY

News articles

Mazzucato, Mariana and Damon Silvers 2024. '[How to make the green economy a just economy: Lessons from the US autoworkers' strike](#).' *Foreign Affairs*, 24 January.

Ovetz, Robert 2024. '[Rethinking the workers movement in 2024](#).' *The Chief*, 9 January.

Ovetz, Robert 2023. '[One-member, one-vote can democratize our union](#).' *The Chief*, 27 December.

Ovetz, Robert 2023. '[The problem with paying for excess workload](#).' *The Chief*, 13 December.

Job posts

The Department of History at Brown University invites applicants for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Labor History, 1500–Present. Open to any geography, but with a preference for scholarship focused outside the US and Europe. Applicant should have investments in Labor History as a distinct subfield within the discipline. The PhD, from an institution other than Brown University, must be in hand by July 1, 2024; applicants must not have had more than five years of academic employment since the awarding of the PhD. The Fellow will teach one undergraduate course each year. The department places a high priority on research excellence, high-quality teaching, and a commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community. Interested candidates should speak to their ability to contribute to each of these three areas in a letter of application. Please also send a curriculum vitae, an article or chapter-length writing sample, and three letters of reference, via [the application portal](#). Review of applications will begin **February 15, 2024**. To assure full consideration applicants should submit their materials by that date.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This is a full-time post. Initially a two-year contract (with possibility of renewal), with an expected start date of 1 June 2024. Job description: The Department of Applied Social Sciences is recruiting a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology. The post is open in terms of theoretical and qualitative methodological approach within the fields of sociology of labor, work and employment, and political economy, with specialism in China or from a

comparative perspective in Asia. Skills, knowledge and experience: 1. PhD in sociology, political science or a closely related discipline by the date of appointment; 2. Clear potential for excellent academic publications record. Please submit your research statement, CV and up to three writing samples (top-ranked peer-reviewed journal articles and/or forthcoming publications) to Dr Jenny Chan jenny.wl.chan@polyu.edu.hk by **31 March 2024**. Applicants only need to submit the contact information of their three referees. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

News and announcements

Save the date! Workshop: ‘Amazon, logistics and labour: Technology, worker experiences and collective action in a growing sector – Bringing researchers and activists together.’ Saturday 6 April, 2024, University of Göttingen, Germany. Following the International Labour Process (ILPC) Conference, international and German logistics researchers will meet with local workers and union activists for a workshop. The aim is to discuss current developments in the warehousing and logistics sector and the perspective of organizing effectively to improve working conditions. The workshop has a special focus on Amazon, but it also considers developments in other sectors such as sea, freight or parcel logistics. It will comprise four different panels encompassing short inputs from logistics scholars, workers, and union staff. Attendance is free (subject to a call for voluntary contributions). To register your attendance, please email geba@socsci.aau.dk by **15 March, 2024**. Please provide your name and affiliation. We will provide coffee and lunch, so also let us know if you have dietary requirements. Workshop supported by: [Project TransLok SOFI Soziologische Forschungsinstitut Göttingen](#), [Stiftung Menschenwürde und Arbeitswelt](#), [Express – Zeitung für sozialistische Betriebs- und Gewerkschaftsarbeit](#)

Please **join** or **renew** your [RC44 membership](#) now! The more paid-up members we have, the stronger our voice internationally and within the ISA.

[RC44 Board \(2023–2027\)](#)

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RC44 Newsletter & RC44 Webpage
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Global Labour Journal

Editors: **Maurizio Atzeni, Elena Baglioni, Teri Caraway, Neethi P., Nicolas Pons-Vignon, Ben Scully**

Reviews Editor: **Omar Manky Bonilla**

Managing Editor: **Claire Ceruti**

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In solidarity,

Tom Barnes, on behalf of the RC44 Board (2023-2027)

1 Feb 2024