



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

**Vale Edward ('Eddie') Webster:**

We begin this month's e-Newsletter with important and sad news about the recent passing of Prof Edward ('Eddie') Webster who, among so many other contributions, played a critical role in the historical development of RC44, including his role in the founding of the *Global Labour Journal*. A short tribute is reprinted below, having been posted originally to the RC44 e-list in early March. Thanks to Bridget Kenny and Ben Scully for compiling this tribute. In addition, colleagues and comrades may be interested in reading an obituary written by Andries Bezuidenhout (see [here](#)) as well as the tribute from Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) (see [here](#)). A recording of the Memorial Service held at the University of the Witwatersrand can be viewed [here](#):

Edward ('Eddie') Webster, Professor of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, passed away on 5 March 2024 at nearly 82 years old. Eminent scholar of the labour process, work organisation and the labour movement in South Africa, he has impacted generations of students, labour activists and colleagues. He was elected as Secretary of RC44 in 1998 and served as President (2002-2006). He was an active member of RC44 ever since. He helped to expand the section's focus to the global South, encouraging debate around informal and precarious labour organising and founded the *Global Labour Journal*. His book *Grounding Globalization: Labor in the Age of Insecurity* (2008), with Rob Lambert and Andries Bezuidenhout, was awarded the American Sociological Association's Labor and Labor Movements Section distinguished scholarly monograph prize in 2009. His most recent book, published last year, *Recasting Workers' Power*, with Lynford Dor, details the effects of technological change on work and labour, including in the gig economy, and examines new forms of worker organisation and power. He is the author of over 100 academic articles, as well as numerous research reports. Hamba Kahle, Eddie! Rest in Power!

**Publications**

***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*

James MULDOON, Callum CANT and Mark GRAHAM (2024) A typology of Artificial Intelligence data work. *Big Data & Society*. [Online First](#).

Matt WITHERS (2024) Depletion through transnational social reproduction: Guest worker migration and uneven development in the South Pacific. *Work in the Global Economy* [Online First](#).

Huaiyin LI, with Jenny CHAN (2024) The Master in Bondage: A Conversation with Huaiyin Li. *Made in China Journal*, [Open access](#).

Chris TILLY (2023) Organizing informal workers on a global scale: Comparing a global union federation and a global informal worker organization network. *Relations Industrielles/Industrial Relations* 78(2): <https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/ri/2023-v78-n2-ri09111/1109484ar/>

### ***Report***

Jim STANFORD and Greg JERICHO (2024) [The Irrelevance of Minimum Wages to Future Inflation](#), Centre for Future Work/The Australia Institute. 20 March.

### ***Call for Papers: Special Issues***

*Technological Change, Power and Work*: [Call for Papers for Special Issue of British Journal of Industrial Relations](#)

**Deadline for abstracts: 31 July 2024.** This *British Journal of Industrial Relations* Special Issue invites contributions that apply comparative perspectives on Technological Change, Power, and Work, with a focus on Europe and North America (specifically the USA and Canada). The Special Issue is based upon two workshop sessions organized by Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven) and Chris Tilly (UCLA) at the ILERA/LERA World Congress, June 2024.

### ***Call for Abstracts: Conference***

Symposium: [Future of Work and Care](#)

Organiser: Sociology of Work Labour & Economy thematic group, The Australian Sociological Assn (TASA)

Deadline for submission of abstracts: April 10, 2024.

Event Date: May 3, 2024

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

### ***News articles***

Aloisi, Antonio and De Stefano, Valerio 2024. '[Gig workers in Europe: The new platform of rights](#).' *Social Europe*, 16 March.

Deeksha, Johanna 2024. '[India's iPhone factory is keeping women workers isolated.](#)' Scroll.in, 6 March.

Ovetz, Robert 2024. '[AFL-CIO to workers: Fight AI with one hand behind your back.](#)' *The Chief*, 20 March

Ovetz, Robert 2024. '[The crumbs theory of bargaining.](#)' *The Chief*, 5 March.

### *News and announcements*

(1) Livestream of special session at International Labour Process Conference (ILPC), University of Göttingen, on '[Commemorating 20 Years of the Global Labour University \(GLU\)](#)', 1315-1445 (GMT+2), 5 April 2024.

(2) Conversation with Mark Selden on his co-authored book, *Dying for an iPhone*. Read the online interview in [English](#) and [French](#) (March 2024). Mark Selden taught historical sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton (retired) and is the founding editor of [The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus](#). His latest book is [A Chinese Rebel beyond the Great Wall: The Cultural Revolution and Ethnic Pogrom in Inner Mongolia](#) (with TJ Cheng and Uradyn E. Bulag), published by the University of Chicago Press (2023).

(3) Workshop on 'Gender & Violence at Work: Potentials and challenges for trade unions in Asia'. Tue 9 April 10am – 5pm CT, organized by Units of International and Intersocietal Relations and Global Political Economy of Labour at the Department of Social Sciences, UniKassel Institute for Sustainability, Global Labour University. For registration / further information, please contact: [gvw-workshop2024@uni-kassel.de](mailto:gvw-workshop2024@uni-kassel.de)

(4) Youtube videos now available for [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

(5) Alessandra MEZZADRI and Asiya ISLAM, 2024. Reading List: A feminist guide to essential writing about work. [The Sociological Review Magazine, 6 February](#)

(6) [According to the GMB Union in Britain](#), Amazon is on the cusp of being forced to recognize a union at its fulfillment centre in Coventry, central England, which would be a historic breakthrough for union rights in the country, and a significant moment in Amazon worker activism in Europe and globally.

(7) Please follow RC44 on our [Twitter/X](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

(8) Readers 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](mailto:tom.barnes@acu.edu.au)).

(9) 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.

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

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In solidarity,

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

31 March 2024