

Newsletter

December 2024 – January 2025

Welcome to RC44's first newsletter for 2025! Please note the following:

- (1) Items for the newsletter are always 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. Send any items to tom.barnes@acu.edu.au. The deadline for the next newsletter is 28 February.
- (2) RC44 has a new Bluesky account ([@labourrc44.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@labourrc44.bsky.social)), and we are continuing with our presence on Twitter/X for the time being. Please follow us there, as well as on our recently established [LinkedIn page](#) or [Facebook](#) (which we will look to update ASAP). Encourage friends, colleagues and comrades in labour research and the labour movement to do the same!! 😊
- (3) A final reminder that you are strongly encouraged to invite colleagues and comrades to join our eList, 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! If you're already on the list, you can invite them yourself. 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.
- (4) Regarding this year's 5th ISA Forum in Rabat, Morocco (6-11 July 2025), any queries about RC44's program of sessions should be sent to Jörg Nowak, RC44 Vice President for Program, joerg.nowak@gmx.de.
- (5) Special thanks to Sophie Cotton for her assistance in compiling this month's newsletter.

Publications

Journal Articles

Global Labour Journal

September 2024 (Vol. 15, No. 3)

This quarter's issue includes articles from Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, as well as the Fair Food Movement, plus reviews of three important new books.

Contributors: Baba Aye, Charles Burggraff, Vanessa de Becze, Stanley Gacek, Monicah Gachuki, Francisca Gutiérrez-Crocco, Phillip A Hough, Thomas Klikauer, Lucas López, James Musonda, Stephen Pursey, Karthik Ramanujam, Jana Silverman

Akira SUZUKI (2025). [Social movements to ban asbestos in Japan: Influence of trade unions and the late development of grassroots mobilization](#). *Labor History*. Online First, 1-13.

John Bellamy FOSTER (2024). [Braverman, Monopoly Capital, and AI: The Collective Worker and the Reunification of Labor](#). *Monthly Review*.

REVIEW: Joshua MURRAY (2025). [Union Booms and Busts: The Ongoing Fight over the U.S. Labor Movement](#). *Contemporary Sociology*, 54(1), 87-88.

Other Articles

[Global Labour Column](#) – recent articles:

- Patrick BOND (2025). South Africa's Stilfontein mine disaster reveals a regional labour crisis. Jan 30
- Huma HAQ (2025). The global fight against the commodification of care. Jan 22
- Ishara Rangani WIJAYAMUNI (2024). Domestic workers' bondage exposes the brutal logic of global care chains. Dec 16
- Roxana CALDERÓN (2024). Remittances reveal the hidden costs of migrant motherhood. Dec 13
- Hyunsu HWANG (2024). South Korean workers stand tall in the fight for democracy. Dec 11

Barry EIDLIN (2024). [How Canada's Auto Union Lost Its Way](#). *Jacobin*, September 12.

Elaine Sio-ieng HUI (2024). [No, Chinese Migrants Aren't Chinese Government Spies](#). *Jacobin*, June 12.

Margaret POYDOCK, Celine MCNICHOLAS, Jennifer SHERER, and Heidi SHIERHOLZ (2025). [16 million workers were unionized in 2024](#). Economic Policy Institute, January 28.

Kim SCIPES (2024). [Review Essay—Blue Collar Empire: The Untold Story of US Labor's Global Anticommunist Crusade by Jeff Schuhrke](#). *Class, Race and Corporate Power*, 12(2):2.

Kim SCIPES (2024). [Directly Challenging the US Empire, Capitalism, and the Global Climate Crisis](#). *Z Network*, November 11.

Kim SCIPES (2024). [In Response to Michael Albert's 'Answering Critics'](#). *Z Network*, November 3.

Podcast

In the [first LabourStart Podcast for 2025](#), Stephanie Ross and Larry Savage discuss their new book, *Shifting Gears: Canadian Autoworkers and the Changing Landscape of Labour Politics*.

Call for Papers

Conferences

Work, Employment & Society (WES) Conference 2025: Continuities and Discontinuities in Work and Employment. 8-10 September 2025, University of Manchester, England. British Sociological Association. This conference seeks submissions exploring continuities and discontinuities in work practices and conceptualisations, organisational landscapes, relational practices, over the last 50 years, and complex junctures of life, work and employment. [Abstract submission and full call for abstracts available online](#). **Abstracts due 21 March 2025.**

Announcements

Call for Applications: MA Programme in Labour Policies and Globalisation in Germany

This one-year programme, taught in English at the University of Kassel and the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR), addresses the challenges faced by trade unions and labour movements across the globe in an age of crisis.

- **Application deadline** March 1, 2025
- **Course starts** October 1, 2025

The LPG programme in Germany constitutes a part of a wider project of the Global Labour University (GLU) to promote cooperation between trade unions and the research community and to strengthen the analytical and policy development capacity of trade unions. The GLU network also has a vibrant alumni community with over 1,000 alumni from more than 80 countries, providing valuable global connections and support. Scholarships for students from the Global South are available, and apart from a contribution towards excursions and a fee for administration and a public transport pass, the programme is free of charge. We look forward to receiving applications from candidates with experience in labour and social movements, eager to expand their knowledge of global labour mobilisations and organisations!

How to Apply: Visit [MA Programme Website](#) or email glu.germany@uni-kassel.de for more information.

Important reminder

Please follow RC44 on our Bluesky ([@labourrc44.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/labourrc44.bsky.social)), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

RC44

RC44 Board (2023–2027)

Michele Ford, *President*

Jörg Nowak, *Vice-President for Programme*

Tom Barnes, *Vice-President for Communications*

Cirila Quintero Ramírez, *Secretary*
Marcel Paret, *Treasurer*
Mateus Mendonça, *Board member at-large*
Lutfun Nahar Lata, *Board member at-large*
Pablo Pérez Ahumada, *Board member at-large*
Thabang Sefalafala, *Africa Regional Representative*
Neethi P, *Asia Regional Representative*
Michael Gillan, *Australia-New Zealand-Oceania Regional Representative*
Mateusz Karolak, *Central/Eastern Europe Regional Representative*
Isil Erdinc, *Western Europe Regional Representative*
Clara Marticorena, *Latin America Regional Representative*
Barry Eidlin, *North America Regional Representative*

RC44 Newsletter & RC44 ISA Webpage

Managed by **Tom Barnes**

RC44 Bluesky ([@labourrc44.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/labourrc44.bsky.social)), LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter/X

Moderated by **Tom Barnes**

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**
Social Media Coordinator: **Christopher Raymond**
Consulting Editor: **Robert O'Brien**

In solidarity,

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

1 Feb 2025