

Newsletter

September 2025

This month's newsletter includes news about the latest issue of our flagship publication, *Global Labour Journal* (including the exciting appointment of four new junior editors) as well as important new books by labour researchers, and much more!

Publications

Book

Jennifer Jihye Chun and Ju Hui Judy Han (2025) [*Against Abandonment: Repertoires of solidarity in South Korean protest*](#). Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press.

Josh MacPhee and Kennedy Block (2025) [*Strike While the Needle is Hot: A discography of worker's revolt*](#). New York: Common Notions.

Journal Articles

[*Global Labour Journal*](#)

September 2025 (Vol. 16, No. 3) –

This quarter includes an editorial welcoming the journal's four new junior editors, an important report on the work of sociologists campaigning in solidarity with Palestine within the International Sociological Association, as well as papers on the role of the labour movement in Egypt, IT workers in Brazil's banking sector, privatization in the Port of Hamburg, and reviews of two important recent books. Contributors include: Gabriel Huland, Peter Kuhns, Bárbara Vallejos Vazquez, Jule Elena Westerheide, Markus Hertwig, Martin Lenzner, Patrick Witzak, Rana Sukarieh, Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Chris Tilly, Lynford Dor and Agustin Gotelli.

Manky, O. (2025) [*Reimagining Work Security in Latin America's Platform Economy: Workers' Strategies Amid Urban Violence*](#). *New Technology, Work and Employment*. Online First

Veitch, A. (2025) [*Unions out of their league? Ethnographic insights into the 2024 French farmer protests*](#). *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 52(6): 1365–1383.

Anwar, M. A. (2025) [*Worker power in self-organised networks: Algorithmic management, solidarity and resistance on platforms*](#). *Platforms & Society*. Online First

Guo, Ya, Sizhan Cui, Zhuofei Lu, and Senhu Wang. (2025) [Dependence and Precarity in the Gig Economy: A Longitudinal Analysis of Platform Work and Mental Distress](#). *The British Journal of Sociology* Online First

Crossa, M., and I. Ovalle. (2025) [Labour Regimes and Rural Classes of Labour in the Automotive Industry in Mexico](#). *Journal of Agrarian Change* Online First

Wickramasingha, S. (2025). [Intersection of crises, discourses, and gender ideologies in change making: The case of Sri Lankan labour law reforms](#). *Competition & Change*. 29(5): 717-736

See the latest issue of [New Labor Forum \(34/3\)](#) for a special section on: ‘Can Trump’s GOP Make a Home for the Working Class?’

Video

The release of Kennedy Block and Josh MacPhee’s new book, *Strike While the Needle is Hot* (see above) is available for [viewing here on Youtube](#).

Articles

Kim Scipes 2025. Challenging Marxism and Identity Politics. Published by ZNetwork.org (also available at Countercurrents.org). [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

[Review Essay of Hamilton Nolan's *The Hammer: Power, Inequality and the Struggle for the Soul of Labor* by Kim Scipes](#). *Green Social Thought*, August 20

Announcements

Call for papers

Call for chapter proposals for a new book, *Comparative Political Sociology of Trade Unions*, coordinated by Sophie Bérout & Isil Erdinc. The economic, social, and political environment in which trade unions operate has undergone profound changes since the end of the 20th century. These transformations call into question the scope for action still available to trade unions, their ability to make themselves heard, to implement various elements of their repertoire of action—from strikes to negotiations—to achieve results, and their propensity to take up cross-cutting issues such as those related to the ecological transition. Research offering comparative perspectives on how trade unions are adapting to these changes and reshaping their alliances and actions mainly falls into two broad categories. Several studies have examined the possibility of a convergence of national industrial relations systems under the influence of neoliberal policies. Another set of studies, more focused on the challenges of union renewal, refers to the spread of the organizing model, unionization policies, and in particular the organization of workers who are distant from unions due to their employment status and working conditions. The book we are proposing here aims to take a step back from these two lines of research, while incorporating

their respective contributions. The originality of this project lies in applying the conceptual tools of political sociology of trade unions in a comparative perspective. Five areas of focus are envisaged: 1. The place of trade unions under neoliberal capitalism; 2. Reconfiguration of relations with politics; 3. Conquering precarious sectors; 4. Emergence of ‘new’ issues; 5. Transnational dimension of union action. If you are interested in this project, please **send us a chapter proposal of about ten lines, with a title, by the end of October 2025. Proposals on Global South countries are particularly welcome.** Chapters of no more than 45,000 characters are expected by **early April 2026.** Contact: sophie.beroud@univ-lyon2.fr and isil.erdinc@ulb.be

L’environnement économique social et politique dans lequel l’action syndicale se déploie s’est profondément transformé depuis la fin du XXe siècle. Ces transformations interrogent les marges d’action dont disposent encore les syndicats, leur capacité à se faire entendre, à mettre en oeuvre différentes éléments de leur répertoire d’action – de la grève à la négociation –, à obtenir des résultats, ainsi que leur propension à se saisir d’enjeux transversaux comme ceux liés à la transition écologique. Les recherches qui proposent des perspectives comparées sur la façon dont les syndicats s’adaptent à ces changements, recomposent leurs alliances et leurs actions, s’inscrivent principalement dans deux grandes perspectives. Un certain nombre de travaux ont ainsi interrogé un possible rapprochement, sous l’effet des politiques néolibérales, des régimes nationaux de relations professionnelles. Un autre ensemble de travaux, davantage axé sur les enjeux de renouveau syndical, renvoie à la diffusion du modèle de l’*organizing*, des politiques de syndicalisation et en particulier d’organisation de travailleur.es éloigné.es, en raison de leur statut d’emploi et leurs conditions de travail, des syndicats. L’ouvrage que nous proposons ici entend faire un pas de côté par rapport à des deux courants de recherche, tout en intégrant leurs apports respectifs. L’originalité de ce projet consiste en effet à faire travailler les outils conceptuels d’une sociologie politique des syndicats dans une perspective comparative. Cinq axes sont envisagés: 1. La place des syndicats sous le capitalisme néo-libéral; 2. Reconfiguration des rapports au politique; 3. A la conquête des secteurs précarisés; 4. Emergence de « nouveaux » enjeux; 5. Dimension transnationale de l’action syndicale. Si vous êtes intéressé par ce projet, merci de **nous envoyer une proposition de chapitre d’une dizaine de lignes, avec un titre, d’ici fin octobre 2025. Les propositions basées des travaux portant sur les pays du Sud sont particulièrement bienvenues.** Les chapitres de 45 000 signes maximum sont attendus pour début avril 2026. Coordonnées: sophie.beroud@univ-lyon2.fr et isil.erdinc@ulb.be.

Award

Congratulations to Kim Scipes for winning a ‘Golden Hoosier’ Award from the Lieutenant Governor's Office in the US State of Indiana on September 10. (‘Hoosier’ is the colloquial name for Indiana residents.) This award is presented for people over 65 years of age who continue to contribute to the well-being of residents of Indiana. Kim was one of 12 recipients state-wide. Well done, Kim!

Reminders

- (1) RC44 has a 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 [LinkedIn page](#) or [Facebook](#) (which we will look to resurrect ASAP).

(2) 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 31 October.

(3) A 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.

RC44

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Managed by **Tom Barnes**

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

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Global Labour Journal

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

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In solidarity,

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

1 October 2025