

Newsletter

October 2025

This month's newsletter includes news about a special issue that emerged directly from RC44 panels at the last ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne in 2023, and much more! Please note that the **next newsletter will be the last for 2025**. The deadline is 30 November 😊

Publications

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.

Agarwala, Rina and Chris Tilly. 2025. "Experiments in Power-Building: An Intellectual History and Comparative Framework for Informal Workers' Organizing." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. 66(5): 691-712

[*Note: this is the lead article for a special issue on 'Experiments in Power-building' which emerged from RC44 panels at the last ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne in 2023. Checkout the whole special issue online!*]

Agarwala, Rina, Chris Tilly, and Aabid Firdausi. 2025. "Explaining informal workers' organizing experiments: A cross-country study of Brazil, China, and India." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. Vol 66(5): 713-733

Wood, A. J., Martindale, N., & Burchell, B. J. (2025). Beyond the 'Gig Economy': Towards Variable Experiences of Job Quality in Platform Work. *Work, Employment and Society*, 39(5), 1154-1178.

Medappa, K. (2025). ‘Lived Capitalisation’: How Speculative Finance Shapes the Social and Financial Lives of ‘Gig’ Workers in Bengaluru, India. *Work, Employment and Society*, 39(5), 1247-1268.

Miszczynski, M., & Zanoni, P. (2025). Coercion and Consent under Techno-Economic Despotism: Workers’ Alienation and ‘Liberation’ in the Amazon Warehouse. *Work, Employment and Society*, 39(5), 1179-1200.

Winton, A., Umney, C., & Alberti, G. (2025). How Does the Local State Mediate the Relationship Between Technological Change and Work? Evidence from Warehousing in England. *Work and Occupations* Online First

Hui, E. S. & Chen, W. (2025). The Rise and Fall of Student Labour Activism in Authoritarian China. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 55(5), 779–800.

Lee, B.-Y. (2025). More than a transaction: Workplace dignity and psychological contract in platform-based food delivery work. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Linderöth, K. (2025). The emergence of labour utopias: Solidarity, visibility and agency in the Swedish Municipal Workers’ Union strike. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

della Porta, D., & Antonelli, M. (2025). A chain of workers’ struggles: How labour protests spread in time and space. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Kalbermatter, J., Schaupp, S., & Nachtwey, O. (2025). Union strategies in the digitalized post and logistics sector: A global qualitative survey. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Peticca-Harris, A., Murgia, A., Alberti, G., & Ivancheva, M. (2025). Intersectionality and precarious subjectivities: Within and beyond labour and organizational perspectives. *Organization*, 32(7), 933-953.

Mrozowicki, A., Burski, J., & Krasowska, A. (2025). Managing intersectional precarity in times of the Covid-19 pandemic: The case of essential workers in Poland. *Organization*, 32(7).

Reviews

Kim Scipes 2025. Review of Jeff Schuhrke’s *No Neutrals There: US Labor, Zionism and the Struggle for Palestine*. <https://znetwork.org/znetarticle/review-of-jeff-schuhrikes-no-neutrals-there-us-labor-zionism-and-the-struggle-for-palestine/>. October 28

Interview

Kim Scipes 2025. Invited speaker. “Worldwide” with Dr. PL De Silva on “Jesse Jackson, Jr., Show,” KBLA Radio AM1580, Los Angeles, CA, October 9. Reposted on Z Network on

October 17 at <https://znetwork.org/zvideo/the-difference-between-trade-unions-and-labor-movements/>

Announcements

Call for papers

‘Labor Rights in the 21st Century’: First Call for Presentation Proposals

In an increasingly precarious and divided world, where labor rights are widely being reduced and attacked, we promote the universality of labor rights and the need to expand and improve labor rights world-wide. Furthermore, we support the mandatory inclusion of labor rights in new emerging digital jobs, and the urgent need to foster a movement to implement international laws that benefit workers in all countries. Therefore, we call on activists, academics, politicians, union leaders, and workers to share their experiences and present their ideas at the International Conference "Labor Rights in the 21st Century," to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on November 20, 2026. This first call for presentations will be open until March 15, 2026. Abstracts (as well as any questions) should be sent by email to Peter Rosing Bull of Proyecto Societas: isocietas@protonmail.com.

‘Derechos Laborales en el Siglo XXI’:

En un mundo cada vez más precario y dividido, en donde los derechos laborales son cada vez más reducidos y atacados, promovemos la universalidad de los derechos laborales y la necesidad de ampliar y mejorarlos. Además, exigimos la obligatoriedad de derechos laborales inclusivos con los nuevos trabajos emergentes y digitales y la urgencia de impulsar un movimiento para implementar leyes internacionales en beneficio de los trabajadores de y en todos los países. Por eso, convocamos a activistas, académicos, políticos, líderes sindicales y trabajadores interesados en compartir sus experiencias y presentar sus ideas en la Conferencia Internacional “Derechos Laborales en el Siglo XXI” que se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Montevideo, Uruguay el 20 de noviembre de 2026. Publicación de la convocatoria: La primera convocatoria será publicada a partir del 1ro de noviembre de 2025 y estará abierta hasta el 15 de marzo de 2026. Registro: Los resúmenes de ponencias deberán ser enviados por correo electrónico a Peter Rosing Bull de Proyecto Societas: isocietas@protonmail.com.

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 30 November.

(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

RC44 Board (2023–2027)

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RC44 Newsletter & RC44 ISA Webpage

Managed by **Tom Barnes**

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

Moderated by **Tom Barnes**

Global Labour Journal

Editors: **Benjamin Anderson**, **Maurizio Atzeni**, **Elena Baglioni**, **Teri Caraway**, **Lucy Everitt**, **Ida Nikou**, **Nicolas Pons-Vignon**, **Anne-Iris Romens**, **Melisa Serrano**

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Social Media Coordinator: **Christopher Raymond**

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In solidarity,

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

1 November 2025