

Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to RC44's monthly newsletter for November 2025! Please note:

- (1) This is the last newsletter for 2025. Thanks to all who submitted items to newsletters this year! The deadline to send items for the next newsletter is 31 January 2026. 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. If, in the meantime, you have news/announcements for the December/January period, feel free to post them on the RC44 e-list.
- (2) 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.
- (3) For those taking time away from work, may you enjoy a peaceful and restful holiday season. As always, strength and solidarity to everyone working in Dec/Jan and to those involved in labour, social and environmental struggles for a better world as we approach the new year. All best wishes and solidarity to friends, colleagues and comrades for the festive season 😊

Publications

Books

Andreas BIELER and Vincenzo MACCARRONE (ed.) (2025) *Critical Political Economy of the European Polycrisis*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Jaz BRISACK (2025) *Get on the Job and Organize: Standing Up for a Better Workplace and a Better World*. New York: Atria/One Signal Publishers.

Naomi R. WILLIAMS (2025) *A Blueprint for Worker Solidarity: Class Politics and Community in Wisconsin*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.

Book chapters

Jörg NOWAK (2025) The places of labour conflict in twenty-first century capitalism. In A. Herod (ed.) [*The Handbook of Labour Geography*](#). Vol 1. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 211-223.

Neethi P. (2025) Issues of space and gender in home-based work: A case from Kerala, India. In A. Herod (ed.) [*The Handbook of Labour Geography*](#). Vol 1. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 481-493.

Cirila Quintero RAMÍREZ (2025) Female leadership and transnational labour activism in Mexican *Maquiladoras* under USMCA: Steps forward and steps back. In Laura Macdonald, Christina Gabriel and Jeffrey M. Ayes (ed.) [*Transnational Activism in North America*](#). Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 73-99. (Open Access.)

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.

Albotmeh S. (2025) [*Palestinian Workers in the West Bank: Labor in the Time of Genocide*](#). *International Labor and Working-Class History*. Online First

Fox-Hodess, K., & Ziadah, R. (2025) [*Community picket lines and social movement unionism on the U.S. docks, 2014–2021: Organizing lessons from the Block the Boat campaign for Palestine*](#). *Critical Sociology* Online First

Permana, M. Y. (2025) [*A Typology of Labour Agency in the Gig Economy: Gig Drivers' Experiences of Struggle in Indonesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic*](#). *New Technology, Work and Employment*. Online First

Nadeem, A. K. (2025) [*Women's Exclusion from Trade Unions in Pakistan*](#). *Critical Sociology* Online First

Minotakis, A. (2025) [*Regulating AI in the workplace: A critique of the EU AI act and the platform work directive through a worker-centred lens*](#). *Platforms & Society* Online First

Amorosi, L. (2025) [*Intersectionality and trade unions: A tale of class and identity?*](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Westgard-Cruice, W. (2025) [Maritime labour regimes in the North Atlantic offshore wind energy industry: On the socialization of labour and the structural power of the working class.](#) *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* Online First

Knutsen, H. M., Jordhus-Lier, D., Sliwa, M. W., & Østring, P. R. (2025). [The role of unions in shaping work-based precarity on the Norwegian continental shelf.](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy*. Online First

Nyobe, S., & Rosain, Z. S. (2025). [The ideological roots of job insecurity: Exploring the link between corporate ideology and perceived job insecurity among French workers.](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Cini, L., & Pulignano, V. (2025) [Mobilising operaismo in the digital age: Continuities and ruptures with the 1960s ‘mass worker’ struggles.](#) *Capital & Class* Online First

Lenaerts, K., & Gillis, D. (2025). [Protecting the labour and social protection rights of platform workers in a multi-layered welfare state: Lessons from legislative innovation and reforms in Belgium.](#) *Competition & Change* Online First

Dhar, D., & Bhattacharya, S. (2025). [Racialized labour, intimate subsidies, and silent cost of social reproduction: the saga of migrant women in India’s gig economy.](#) *Globalizations* Online First

Ebner, N., Bragg, B., & Schling, H. (2025) [Futures of industrial work? Economic restructuring and the ambivalent realities of technological change.](#) *Work in the Global Economy* 5(3): 289-297. Online First

Pulignano, V., L. Frangi, Y. Vereycken, L. Dor, R. Tod, and L. Vermeerbergen. (2025) [Trade Union Power and the Quality of Working Life Under Industry 4.0: Bargaining Outcomes in Truck and Car Components Plants.](#) *British Journal of Industrial Relations*. Online First

Magazine articles

Cirila Quintero Ramírez (2025) Voices of Mexican auto workers. [LERA Perspectives on Work.](#) 12 October, pp. 22-25, Labor & Employment Relations Association.

Robert Ovetz (2025) No rules, no limits: Labor organizing without labor rights. [Dollars and Sense.](#) November/December Issue.

Review

Kim Scipes (2025) [The Jakarta Method: Washington Anti-communist Crusade and the Mass Murder Program That Shaped Our World](#) by Vincent Bevins: A Review Essay. *Class, Race and Corporate Power*. 13(2) November 10

Webinar

Initiated by LEPAIO, the Labor Education Project on AFL-CIO International Operations, [this webinar on November 12, 2025](#) is about the current situation of US threatening to invade Venezuela, featuring presentations by Steve Ellner, James Jordan, and Ricardo Ortiz, plus Q&A.

Announcements

Call for papers

8th International Conference, ‘Social Boundaries of Work: The Meanings of Work in Organisational Contexts’. The conference will take place in Łódź, Poland from 21 to 23 October 2026. The conference is organised by the Department of Sociology of Organization and Management, Institute of Sociology, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź, the Sociology of Work Section the Polish Sociological Association; the Section of Qualitative Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism of the Polish Sociological Association; the Łódź Branch of the Polish Sociological Association; RC44; and the Critical Labour Studies Network. Until 15 December, we are **inviting proposals for thematic groups**, which should be sent to the conference organisers at socialboundariesofwork@gmail.com. Thematic group applications should include the names and affiliations of the organisers, an email address, the group title and an abstract of 300-500 words. Optionally, you can also submit a proposed paper for the group, along with the names and affiliations of the presenters. Individual paper submissions will open on 15 January 2026 and close on 1 March 2026. More information can be found at the conference website at: <https://socialboundariesofwork.pts.org.pl/>

Historical Materialism Barcelona Conference, 2-4 July 2026

A wave of war and reaction is sweeping across the world. Reality seems to surpass the most dystopian of fictions. The authoritarian turn of capitalism is combined with the rise of reactionary forces, increasing geopolitical tensions and militarism, in a scenario of a rapidly worsening climate emergency. The genocide in Gaza is the most brutal manifestation of this age of disaster. To face the magnitude of the catastrophe and discuss how to ward it off, we invite you to participate in the upcoming Historical Materialism Barcelona Conference 2026. Since its inception in 2019, the conference has brought together hundreds of people each time we have gathered, becoming a plural and diverse meeting place, open to honest debate and constructive discussion, and useful to build bridges between scholars and activists. The global network of Historical Materialism conferences includes recent gatherings in London, Paris, Athens, Ankara, Istanbul, Cluj, Montreal, and New York. No aspect of the contemporary crisis—or of the means to overcome it—lies outside the spirit of the conference. We therefore encourage you to submit both individual paper proposals and full panel proposals. For individual papers we require the title, abstract, author’s full name, and email address. For collective proposals, we require the full names of all participants. For pre-constituted panel proposals, we require the general session title, the titles and abstracts of each contribution, and the full name and email address of each participant. The number of contributions per panel should be between four and five. You will

find all the necessary information for submitting proposals in the [submission form](#).

Deadline for submissions: 15 January 2026.

‘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.

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 December 2025. Proposals on Global South countries, especially from Asia and Africa, are particularly welcome.** Chapters of no more than 45,000 characters are expected by **early May 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 decembre 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 mai 2026. Coordonnées: sophie.beroud@univ-lyon2.fr et isil.erdinc@ulb.be.

Job

Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) invites inquiries, nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs (UCLA Luskin). One of UCLA’s 12 professional schools, located in one of the world’s largest and most diverse urban regions, UCLA Luskin’s vision is that of being an outstanding living laboratory for addressing society’s most pressing issues. The school has 76 faculty (including visiting and joint positions), of whom 47 are full time; approximately 57 field faculty, academic coordinators and

lecturers; and more than 1,200 students enrolled in 10 degree programs (bachelor of arts and three undergraduate minors, four professional masters and two doctorates). The school is organized in three departments — public policy, social welfare and urban planning — and houses 12 research centers. Faculty members and students work at scales ranging from neighborhood to international on topics such as aging, democracy, child welfare and education, economic development, environmental challenges, healthcare and mental health, housing and urban design, immigration, poverty, transportation and national security. A fundamental part of the school's service mission is realized through its engagement in local, regional, national, and international programmatic and research collaborations. Confidential review of applications, nominations and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Address nominations and inquiries to our DSG | Storbeck consultants Holly Jackson, Steve Leo and Lisa Solinsky at UCLAPublicAffairs@dsgco.com. To be ensured full consideration, please submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae via the DSG | Storbeck Talent Profile portal (<https://talent-profile.dsgco.com/search/v2/22444>) by **January 21, 2026**.

A new newsletter

Historical Materialism has been disseminating critical Marxist thinking through its Journal, Book Series, the historicalmaterialism.org website, the international network of Historical Materialism Conferences and broadcasts. Now it is launching the Historical Materialism Newsletter with updates of all the journal-related activities. Subscribe to the Newsletter here: <https://www.historicalmaterialism.org/newsletter/>

RC44

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Global Labour Journal

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In solidarity,

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

3 December 2025