



Labour  
Movements

## Newsletter

**April 2026**

Welcome to RC44's newsletter for April 2026... and Happy May Day for this 1 May!! 😊  
Please note that the 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Sociology will take place in Gwangju, South Korea, from 4-10 July 2027, as a fully in-person event, under the theme “Global Sociology in Turbulent Times”. The ISA has made details available about the [Congress theme](#), [poster](#) and [guidelines](#) on its main website. It has also confirmed the main deadlines as per below:

### ***Main deadlines:***

- 2 May - 25 June 2026: Call for Sessions
- 3 August - 14 October 2026: Call for Abstracts
- 4 December 2026: Selection notification
- 27 January 2027: Deadline for applying for a registration grant
- 23 March 2027: Registration deadline

Please remember that the ISA does not extend any deadline (this is not something that RC44 can control!!) and it is recommended to make plans for sessions and abstracts well in advance. RC44 will provide more specific information as it becomes available.

## Publications

### Journal Articles

#### *Global Labour Journal*

January 2026 (Vol. 17, No. 1)

This quarter's issue includes articles on the entertainment industry in Italy, labour regimes in Mexican call centres, organizing among ridesharing drivers, repression and the labour movement in Bangladesh, and reviews of three important new books.

Contributors: Hilary Goodfriend, Alana Gross, Thomas Klikauer, Leda M. Perez, Nicholas Pons-Vignon, Al Amin Rabby, Antonio Sanguinetti, Mirco di Sandro

Among other great articles, [Critical Sociology 52\(3\)](#) includes a symposium on Jennifer Jihye Chun and Ju Hui Judy Han's important book, *Against Abandonment: Repertoires of Solidarity in South Korean Protest* Stanford University Press: Stanford, CA, 2025.

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*, 2.

- Eva, C., Gray, M., Leroy-Dyer, S., & Hunter, B. (2026). [Taking the long view: Indigenous employment 1981–2021.](#) *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First
- Tilly, C. and Carré, F. (2026) [Digital Transformation of Retail Work: The Rise of Chaotic Rationalisation.](#) *British Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First
- Ellem, B., & Goods, C. (2026). [Place and power in the remaking of fossil fuel sites: a study of just transition drivers in an Australian coal region.](#) *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*, Online First
- Monroe, J., & López-Andreu, M. (2026). [‘I’ve got to do this. I have no choice’: The contradictory role of social reproduction in explaining the impact of precarious dependent self-employment.](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 47(2), 310-330
- Pérez-Ahumada, P., & Godoy-Márquez, N. (2026). [Can strike action revitalize labour unions? An empirical analysis of the Chilean case.](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 47(2), 573-597
- Ahmed, S., & Tucker, D. (2026). [Normalisation of Wage and Benefit Theft in the Bangladeshi Garment Industry.](#) *Work, Employment and Society* Online First
- Piro, V. (2026). [Resilience, Reworking, Resistance: Collective Forms of Agency among Unorganised Migrant Workers.](#) *Work, Employment and Society* Online First
- Antonucci, L., & Palier, B. (2026). [Can the welfare state protect workers in the age of platform work? The new policy and politics of welfare in the digital economy.](#) *Competition & Change* Online First
- Blanc, E. (2026). [Unionizing Young Workers: America’s Labor Uptick and Youth Outreach Strategies.](#) *ILR Review* Online First
- Bao, X. (2026). [How do enterprise union frames affect union effectiveness in China?](#) *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First
- Matuszczyk, K., Nowicka, M., Harder, N., & Herpell, M. (2026). [The Value of Care: Brokering Work Conditions and Wages within a Transnational Care System.](#) *ILR Review* Online First
- Gepts, T., Mason, S., Eby, M., & Emmott-Torres, E. (2026). [Organizing associational power: A strikers’ inquiry into the 2022 UAW strike against the University of California.](#) *Critical Sociology* Online First
- Gürler, D. (2026). [Winning the right to work through solidarity: The Argentine workers’ self-management movement.](#) *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First
- Cornet, M., Torres-Cierpe, J., & Le Ludec, C. (2026). [Bringing AI data workers to the forefront: Aspirational débrouille strategies in Madagascar and Venezuela.](#) *Big Data & Society*, 13(1).

Farrugia, D. (2026). [Lay Moralities of Young Workers and the Moral Economy of Service Labour](#). *Work, Employment and Society*, 40(2), 295-313

Xu, Hui, and HailongJia (2026) [The Contested Terrain of Skills: Revisiting Labor Process Debates and the Chinese Factory Regime](#). *Sociology Compass* 20(3)

Haiven, M. (2026). [The speculative imagination within, against and beyond Amazon: the Worker as Futurist project in an increasingly fascist context](#). *Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory* Online First

## Events

### Call for Papers

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Historical Material Conference**, Theme: ‘Planetary Warscapes Ablaze: Imperial Mutations in Infernal Times’, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, Central London, 5-8 Nov 2026.

Since October 2023, genocide has unfolded in Gaza, executed by Israel but underwritten by the US, Britain, and the EU. This colonial violence has expanded across Palestine into Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran. The US and Israeli war against Iran is already engulfing the entire region in a wider war, disrupting energy and trade flows and putting significant pressure on the economies of the other major western capitalist states. In Ukraine, the war persists, fuelled by inter-imperialist competition between NATO and Russia. Trump’s threats to seize Greenland from Denmark, including tariffs and refusal to rule out military force, have fractured the Western bloc in ways unseen since 1945. Meanwhile, Washington escalates confrontation with China through trade wars, technology blockades, and military encirclement in the Pacific. In Latin America, the US intensifies sanctions and hybrid warfare against Venezuela and Cuba.

Proposals for individual papers should include a title, an abstract of no more than 400 words, up to five keywords, and the author’s name, email address and institutional or organisational affiliation (where applicable). Where there is more than one participant, we require a clear indication of a corresponding author. Panel proposals (3–4 papers, roundtables or book discussions) should include a panel title, a 400-word panel abstract, titles and abstracts for each contribution (if it’s a preconstituted panel), and contact details for all participants.

**Deadline for proposals:** 15 May, 2026. More information is [available here](#)

### Seminars

RC44 member, Kim Scipes, gave talks at several meetings in March and April:

- “Connecting Trump’s War on Iran and the US Working Class.” *Z Net*, April 6. On-line with video at <https://znetwork.org/zvideo/connecting-the-war-on-us-workers-with-war-on-iran/>.

- “Worldwide” with Dr. PL De Silva on “Jesse Jackson, Jr., Radio Show.” KBLA Radio, AM 1580 Los Angeles, April 22. (On the economic impact of war on American workers.) On-line at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c1CZlwi-es>.
- “Trump’s War on Iran and the US Working Class.” Institute for the Critical Study of Society, San Francisco Bay Area. March 29. On-line at <https://icssmarx.org/trumps-war-on-iran-and-the-us-working-class-kim-scipes-sunday-march-29-1030-am-pacific-time/>.

## 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](mailto:tom.barnes@acu.edu.au). The **deadline for the next newsletter is 31 May**.
- (3) Please 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](mailto: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.app/profile/labourrc44.bsky.social)), 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**  
Reviews Editor: **Omar Manky Bonilla**  
Social Media Coordinator: **Christopher Raymond**  
Consulting Editor: **Robert O'Brien**

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**In solidarity,**

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

**4 May 2026**