



Labour  
Movements

## Newsletter

**May 2026**

Welcome to RC44's newsletter for May 2026. Note that the brand-new issue of our flagship publication, *Global Labour Journal*, is [out now](#).

Also, to reiterate last month's newsletter, 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. The [Call for Sessions is open now](#). Note that session proposals are *different* from individual abstract submissions, the call for which will go out in August.

Session proposals can be submitted via the ISA's main portal, available at <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2027/cfs.cgi>. Topics highlighted in our last RC44 business meeting included:

- Attacks on union power
- Ecological crisis and the international labour movement
- Geopolitics and labour movements (including labour movements and war)
- Labour education
- Labour movements and class consciousness
- Labour movements and global labour governance
- Labour movements and racial capitalism
- Migrant worker unionization and ethnic inequalities
- New authoritarianism in labour studies
- Social reproduction and worker organising
- Strikes

We invite members to submit their session proposals on these and other topics [before 25 June 2025](#). Please be aware that there will not be an opportunity to add a session after this **strict deadline**.

# Publications

## Books

Kim SCIPES (2026) [Unions, Race, and Popular Democracy: Building a Progressive Labor Movement](#). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. *Out in August 2026—available now for pre-order*. Note that Kim discusses his new book at length during [this meeting](#) to mark Labor Day in the US.

Andi PEKAREK, Rick DELBRIDGE, Markus HELFEN, and Gretchen PURSER (ed.) (2026) [Research in the Sociology of Work, Volume 38: Worker Organizing](#). Emerald Publishing.

## Journal Articles

### [Global Labour Journal](#)

May 2026 (Vol. 17, No. 2)

This quarter's issue includes articles on apparel waste-handling workers in Bangladesh; time autonomy among marginalized workers in China, France, Malaysia and Portugal; the port workers of Genoa, Italy; labour internationalism in solidarity with the people of Palestine; as well as reviews of important new books

Contributors: Michael Albert, Andrea Bottalico, Jan Breman, Lone Rissgaard, Aysha Siddika, Jens Thoemmes, Rafeef Ziadah.

The latest issue of the [Journal of Sociology \(62/2\)](#) contains a Special Issue on 'Platform Labour in the Global South and Global North', edited by Lutfun Nahar Lata, Andrew Copolov and Aditya Ray. This fabulous collection is comprised of six original papers on topics that include ride-hailing drivers in Bogotá, Colombia, platformised care in Sweden, food couriers in the UK and France, Youtube content creators as data workers, transport workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Chinese-run platforms in Australia. The issue also includes reviews of important new books on gig workers in Indonesia, start-up firms in India, and AI workers.

The latest issue of [The Sociological Review \(74/3\)](#) contains a Special Section on '45 Years of Manufacturing Consent', which reflects on the anniversary of Michael Burawoy's classic sociological contribution to labour studies. The section includes an interview with well-known labour process theorist, Paul Thompson, as well as a further four original papers on topics such as gamification and 'data fans' in China, the reproductive labour process, labour process analysis, and students as 'proto-workers'.

Lata, L. N. (2026). [Twin Precarities in the Platform Economy: An Interdisciplinary Perspective](#). *Geography Compass* Online First

Barthel, G., & Refslund, B. (2026). [Transnationalised labour struggle – Workers' conflict on the move? The case of striking truck drivers in Gräfenhausen](#). *Critical Sociology*, Online First

- Rinaldo, R., Itriayati, F., Utomo, H. P., Kamilia, D., & Faley, K. (2026). [“If I die, just pray for me”](#): Low-income working women, precarity, and the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. *Critical Sociology* Online First
- Soriano, C. R. (2026). [Sachet capital: Platforms, labour and everyday transactions in the Philippines](#). *Economy and Society* Online First
- Alarcón, A., & Soriano, C. R. (2026). [The center’s ‘invisible back support’: infrastructuring labor behind virtual assistants in the Philippines](#). *Journal of Cultural Economy* Online First
- Doerflinger, N., & Thomas, A. (2026). [Industrial relations and climate change: Reflections on the way forward and a future research agenda](#). *Journal of Industrial Relations*, 68(2), 220-239.
- Mijin Cha, J., & Moskowitz, H. (2026). [The emergence of intra-labour organizing: A case study analysis of the Climate Jobs National Resource Center movement in the USA](#). *Journal of Industrial Relations*, 68(2), 171-191
- Barratt, T., Veen, A., & Goods, C. (2026). [\(Institutionally\) Working Australia’s gig economy into employment: Analysing Menulog’s modern award application](#). *Journal of Industrial Relations*, 68(2), 192-219
- Boyle, K. A. (2026). [Calling the working-class back into being: The constitutive rhetoric of trade union leadership](#). *Sociology*, Online First
- Pulignano, V., & Laaser, K. (2026). [Classed insecurity: Rethinking the binary relationship between precarity and insecurity](#). *Sociology*, Online First
- Kallas, J. (2026). [“Now you’ve united a bunch of pissed off, passionate queers who want to take action”](#): Examining How Union Activists Practiced Intersectional Organizing at Work to Unionize Starbucks. *ILR Review*. Online First
- Kowalski, A. M., Pinto, S., Gutelius, B., & Vallas, S. P. (2026). [At the Mercy of the Market? E-Commerce, Warehouse Work, and Job Quality in the United States](#). *ILR Review*. Online First
- Thomas, H., & Turnbull, P. (2026). [Working for the Federation: The Global Labor Movement and Global Union Federation Officials](#). *ILR Review*. Online First
- Choper, J., Lehner, L., & Parolin, Z. (2026). [Countervailing Powers: Labor Unions Against the Buyer Power of Walmart Supercenters](#). *American Sociological Review* 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](#)

## Reminders

- (1) RC44 has a Bluesky account ([@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](#).
- (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 30 June**.
- (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**

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In solidarity,

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

2 June 2026