

Note From the Editors

Global Labour Journal: A Scholarly Forum for Global Labour Studies

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Global Labour Journal is a scholarly response to the new forms of labour action, organization and ideas emerging in the age of globalization. In our research, teaching and writing over the past decade and a half we have begun to identify a broad set of issues that has taken us beyond traditional labour studies. In recasting a new global labour studies, we have reached out to several other areas of sociology, such as the sociology of social movements and the sociology of work, as well as other disciplines such as labour geography, comparative politics, international studies and global political economy.

In this process of widening and broadening the study of labour movements, the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Labour Movements (RC 44), to which the journal is affiliated, has begun to provide a truly global forum for the study of labour. It has begun to record and analyze those forms of action and organization that fall outside the traditional focus of labour studies to include labour linked NGOs, community organizations and other labour linked organizations. While providing a forum for research on these new forms of international action and organization, *GLJ* will encourage the submission of manuscripts that describe and analyze the responses of existing labour organizations and labour market institutions to these global challenges. Because *Global Labour* is an open access journal, its content is freely available online via the *GLJ* website: <http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca/globallabour/>.

In addition to the usual academic articles and book reviews, we have introduced an innovative section in the journal called 'Global Labour Issues', in order to provide a space for short – not more than 1500 words – analyses, records or descriptions that illuminate and inform our readership of current responses by labour to the challenge of globalization. We do this to encourage the flow of ideas and discussion between different parts of the globe – especially important for scholars based in the global South who face obstacles inserting themselves in northern dialogues and for people based in the global North who lack access to perspectives and ideas from the majority of the world's population.

We are pleased to be launching the premier issue of *Global Labour Journal* with a themed collection of academic articles on globalization and labour in India and China,

which have been guest-edited by Paul Bowles (University of Northern British Columbia) and John Harriss (Simon Fraser University). As China and India's transformation raises questions of economic growth, ecological politics and the shift in global power, these articles take a critical look at the impact of economic liberalism on these two countries, and the ways in which globalization has shaped their growth. We can't think of a more fitting collection of articles with which to launch this timely and relevant new labour studies forum.

We, the editors of *Global Labour Journal* welcome your questions, suggestions, and of course your submissions. Please direct any of these to us at globallabour@mcmaster.ca.

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