The purpose of this newsletter is to put you fully in the picture regarding RC44’s program at the July Congress of ISA. Dan Clawson has worked intensely over the past six months to organize the fourteen sessions which are reproduced in the newsletter. Dan’s remarkable commitment to this venture reflects the spirit which has made RC44 such a vibrant network for over the years we have succeeded in involving labour scholars from across the globe (see Dan’s summary of the range of participants) who are engaged in research on labour movements and the changing nature of work. Whilst RC44 reflects a healthy diversity of views, approaches and issues, I think it is fair to say we share common values in response to the predicament of working people under free market globalization.

Apart from the program, the newsletter highlights three other important issues. First, we hope participants will be able to stay in the same hotel to promote as sense of community as in the past. Second, we are currently formulating a one day workshop on Sunday 11th July which will create a forum for debate on critical issues facing the labour movement: free trade and investment and work restructuring; the global financial crisis and climate change. We will keep you fully briefed on this event in the coming months, so please make sure you arrive in Sweden before Sunday 11th. Third, we urge you to
check your membership status to ensure that participants are paid up members of both ISA
and RC44. Our program in its present form is only possible if we have a paid up
membership base. This needs to be done before January 31st.

Between now and the Congress we will use
the newsletter as a vehicle of communication.
Look forward to seeing you in July.

Rob Lambert

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Dan Clawson,
RC44 Vice-president

We have over 100 authors from 23 different
countries, including China, Japan, Korea,
Taiwan, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, South
Africa, Nigeria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden,
Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands,
Portugal, Czech Republic, and of course
Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and
the United States.

The sessions look terrific, and we have an
embarrassment of riches. We’ve made it a
priority to guarantee plenty of time for
discussion: By rule, panel presentations may
dnot take more than one hour, leaving 50
minutes for audience participation. The
officers decided that, important as papers
and presentations are, interchange and
discussion are equally important; although
we can trade papers through email and the
web, only rarely do we bring together such a
wide range for group discussion.

The unfortunate consequence of that is that
for some panels not all the papers listed will
actually be presented. All papers and
abstracts will be listed equally in all official
International Sociology Association materials,
and all papers and abstracts will appear on
our own conference website
(http://people.umass.edu/clawson/). People
who don’t have the opportunity to present
their own papers – I’m one of those people –
will be the first people called on during the
discussion period. Each non-presenting
author will be offered up to three minutes to
comment on one or more of the presented
papers, explaining how their own paper
relates to and informs the presented paper.

The RC-44 conference website is my own
semi-primitive construction, but it does try to
list all the relevant info, including the
minimal session listings (session date-time,
author, title, email) contained in this
newsletter, and a full set of abstracts. That
web site is http://people.umass.edu/clawson/. In
general, session time slots are 10.45-12.45,
15.30-17.30, 17.45-19.45 each day; you get a
two-and-a-half hour lunch break. Session 1 is
on Monday at 15.30, and then we count up
our session numbers to session 14 on Friday
at 17.45-19.45. But also plan to arrive for our
off-program labor-action event on Sunday 11
July.

Are there going to be glitches and errors in
the listed program? You bet. If you see an
error, or have any other issue to raise, please
be in touch with me, Dan Clawson,
clawson@sadri.umass.edu, since I am the
over-all conference organizer. (For some but
not all issues you may also want to copy your
session organizer.) We’ll try to get things
straightened out before July in Gothenburg if
we can. The more people join RC-44, the
more people we can include in the program.

Dan Clawson,
University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA

MEMBERSHIP

Register for ISA and RC44 membership on-
line at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/
index.htm

FUNDING

In the United States, the American
Sociological Association reports that the
National Science Foundation is providing
grants (to some, not all) to cover the cost of
plane fare to Sweden, providing the person
flies on a US airline. For more information,
go to http://www.asanet.org/funding/isa.cfm

HOTEL
Our recommended hotel for RC44 member is the Scandic Rubinen:  
http://www.scandichotels.com/Hotels/Countries/Sweden/Gothenburg/Hotels/Scandic-Rubinen/

Another slightly more inexpensive option (yet still close to the conference venue) is the Scandic Crown:  

Other options: The ISA lists hostels and B&Bs that are a bit far from the conference venue and are more inexpensive but it does not list their contact information. We have provided them for you here. Note prices are in SEK. 1.00 SEK=0.141255 USD; 1 USD = 7.07941 SEK.

Annes Hus: approx. Sgl 950 Dbl 1390;  
http://www.annes-hus.o.se

Aprikosen B & B: approx. Sgl 500 Dbl 750;  
http://www.aprikosenbab.se/

City Lägenhetshotel: approx. Sgl 350 Dbl 450 NB! No breakfast included; Call: +46 (0)8 600 5111, fax: +46 (0)8 39 3852

Dalagårde Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl 335 Dbl 495;  

Göteborgs Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl/Dbl 550 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.goteborgsvandrarhem.se/en

Göteborgs Mini-hotel: approx. Sgl 450 Dbl 600 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.minihotel.se/engelska/sidor/index/index1.html (Note: this hotel had a special page on handicapped accessibility)

Kvibergs Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl/Dbl 475-690 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.vandrarhem.com/content

Hotell Kusten: approx. Sgl 530 Dbl 750;  
http://www10.goteborg.se/hotel/kusten/Hotel%20Kusten%20engelska/engelsk.html (Note: this hotel’s website says that it can accommodate the handicapped)

Hotell Ljungbacken: approx. Sgl 882 Dbl 995;  
http://www.hotellljungbacken.se/english/home-index-english.html

Vandrarhemmet Linné: approx. Sgl 380 Dbl 440 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.linnehostel.com/

Masthuggsterrassens Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl/Dbl 480 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.mastenvandrarhem.com/home.html?lang=2 (Note: this hotel’s website says that it can accommodate the handicapped)

Nice B & B: approx. Sgl 425 Dbl 525 SEE:  
http://www.hotelnice.se/en_index.htm (Note: this hotel’s website says that it can accommodate the handicapped)

Slottskogens Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl 345 Dbl 480 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.slottskogenvh.se/english/index.htm

Stigbergslidens Vandrarhem: approx. Sgl/Dbl 480 NB! No breakfast included;  
http://www.mastenvandrarhem.com/home.html?lang=2 (Note: this hotel’s website says that it can accommodate the handicapped)

RC-44: SESSIONS FOR ISA MEETINGS IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, 11-17 JULY, 2010.

*** These are the dates and times we have requested from the ISA; they are not yet guaranteed to be the actual dates-times. ***

For a complete listing, including abstracts for all papers, please go to  
http://people.umass.edu/clawson/

Session 1: PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY OF LABOR, Monday 12 July, 15.30-17.30

Organizer: Michael Burawoy, University of California, Berkeley, USA.  
burawoy@berkeley.edu

Fractured Relationships - New Beginnings?: Social Science and the British Working Class  
Huy Beynon, Cardiff University  
beynonh@Cardiff.ac.uk

New Subjects of Labor: Philippine Labor Sociology and the Migrant Worker  
Robyn Magalit Rodriguez, Rutgers  
University robynmr@rci.rutgers.edu
Experiences of the Labor Movement and the Origin of the Sociology of the Work in Mexico — A Biographical Approach
Enrique de la Garza Toledo, Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico City egt@xanum.uam.mx

An Anatomy of ‘Collective Anti-Collectivism’: Labour Sociology in Ukraine and Romania
Mihai Varga, University of Amsterdam M.Varga@uva.nl

**Session 2: PRECARIOUS LABOR, Monday 12 July 17.45-19.45**

Organizer and Chair: Ching Kwan Lee (UCLA, USA) cklee@soc.ucla.edu

1. Angela Maria Carneiro Araujo, (State University of Campinas, Brazil) angela.m.carneiro@uol.com.br
   "New configurations of Labour: informality, cooperative work and gender"

2. Emmanuel Abiodun Fayankinnu, Adekunle Ajasin (University Akungba Akoko Nigeria), yahdammy@yahoo.com
   "Organized Labor’s Response to Causalization in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry"

3. Anders Neergaard (Linköping University, Sweden) Anders.Neergaard@isv.liu.se
   "Trade Union Strategies, migration and informal labour in Turkey, South Africa and Sweden"

4. Kevan Harris (Johns Hopkins University, USA) kevan@jhu.edu
   "The End of Iran’s Revolutionary Social Compact? Informal Labor and the Politics of State Subsidies in the Islamic Republic"

5. Pun Ngai (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China) punngai@gmail.com
   "Legal Activism or Class Action? The political economy of ‘no boss’ and ‘no labor relationship’ in China’s construction industry and the nature of collective struggles"

6. Gretchen Purser (UC Davis, USA) gpurser@berkeley.edu
   "Broke and Brokered in the Day Labor Business"

7. Anna Romina Guevarra (University of Illinois, Chicago) guevarra@uic.edu
   “You have to beat them in their own game”: Filippino Immigrant Caregivers and the Informalization of the Home Care Work Industry in Southern California

8. Khayaat Fakier (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) khayaat.fakier@wits.ac.za
   “Class and Social Reproduction in Migrant Households in a South African community"

9. Franco Barchiesi (Ohio State University USA) barchiesi1@osu.edu
   “South Africa in the Age of Jacob Zuma: Precarious Employment, Contested Citizenship, and the Politics of Workers’ Melancholia”

**Session 3: EUROPEAN LABOUR: STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO GLOBALISATION AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, Tuesday 13 July 10.45-12.45**

Organizers: Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick, Birkbeck, University of London/UK (r.gumbrell-mccormick@bbk.ac.uk)
Richard Hyman, London School of Economics/UK (r.hyman@lse.ac.uk)/United Kingdom
Marcos Ancelovici, Department of Sociology, McGill University
marcos.ancelovici@mcgill.ca

The Formation of Labour Responses to Globalization in France: A Comparative Study of the CFDT and the CGT
Abby Peterson, Mattias Wahlström and Magnus Wennerhag, Dept of Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Abby.Peterson@sociology.gu.se

Swedish Trade Unionism: A Renewed Social Movement?
Jane Hardy, Business School, University of Hertfordshire
j.a.hardy@herts.ac.uk

Challenges for Cross Border Collaboration in Recession: The Case of Polish and UK Trade Unions
Dimitris Stevis, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University
dimitris.stevis@colostate.edu
International Framework Agreements: Diffusing or Globalizing European Industrial Relations?
Kristina Lovén, Department of Sociology, Gothenburg University.
Kristina.Loven@sociology.gu.se
Can the Unions within the EU Cooperate?
Rob Lambert and Mike Gillan, University of Western Australia
rlambert@biz.uwa.edu.au
Mobilising Space: The Politics of Corporate Restructuring in Europe
Stefania Marino, Department of Welfare and Labour Studies, University of Milan
stefania.marino@unimi.it
Trade Union Representation of Migrant Workers: A Comparison between the Dutch and Italian Cases
Marcus Engler, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
marcus.engler@cmb.hu-berlin.de
How does Transnational Solidarity emerge?
A case study of the trade union narratives, actions and networks at the European planemaker Airbus in times of restructuring
Andranik Tangian, WSI, Hans-Böckler-Stiftung
andranik-tangian@boeckler.de
Towards Computer-Aided Collective Bargaining
Elise Roullaud, Laboratoire d’Etudes Rurales, University of Lyon 2.
eliseroullaud@gmail.com
Agricultural policy Europeanization and union strategies changes: the Confédération Paysanne’s coalitions network
Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick (Birkbeck College) and Richard Hyman (LSE)
r.gumbrell-mccormick@bbk.ac.uk
The Crisis of Capitalism: A Missed Opportunity for European Trade Unions?
Session 4: LABOR MOVEMENTS IN ASIA, Tuesday 13 July 15.30-17.30
Session organizer: Byoung-Hoon Lee, Chung-Ang University, Korea
(bhlee@cau.ac.kr)
Getting Through the Hard Times Together?
Worker Insurgency and Chinese Unions’ Response to the Economic Crisis
Eli Friedman, Dept of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, USA
elfid@berkeley.edu
The Silence of Chinese Labour
Dr. Chun-Yi Lee, The Modern East Asia Research Centre (MEARC), University of Leiden, the Netherlands, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
c.lee@hum.leidenuniv.nl
Challenging Gender and Non-regular Work in Korea:
Case Study of Women’s Long-term Struggle in Supermarket Companies.
Young, Kim. Pusan National University,
Department of Sociology,
borninsurge@pusan.ac.kr
Terrorism, trade and trade unions: Worker struggles in the global South
Janaka Biyanwila, University of Western Australia, janaka@biz.uwa.edu.au
Strengthened Social Partnership under Economic Crisis? Limits of the ‘Social Pact for Job-Sharing’ in South Korea
Myung Joon Park, Institute of Korea Studies/Free University Berlin mj.park@fu-berlin.de

Session 5. STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES IN THE EMERGING GLOBAL LABOR MOVEMENT, Tuesday 13 July 17.45-19.45
Session organizer and moderator: Peter Evans, University of California Berkeley, USA (pevans@berkeley.edu)
1. TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, LABOUR MOVEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL “FREE TRADE.”
Andreas Bieler, University of Nottingham/UK
Andreas.Bieler@nottingham.ac.uk
Bruno Ciccaglione, Global Labour Strategies
bruno.ciccaglione@alice.it
John Hilary, War on Want

César Rodríguez-Garavito
University of the Andes
cerogara@gmail.com

3. HARDER SOFT LAW: THE SOCIALLY
REGULATED MODEL OF
TRANSNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS
Anna Wetterberg
RTI International, Research Triangle Park
a_wetterberg@hotmail.com

4. BUSINESS UNIONISM AND SOCIAL
MOVEMENT UNIONISM IN SÃO PAULO,
BRAZIL: THE BATTLE FOR WORKER
SOLIDARITY IN THE TEMARKETING
INDUSTRY
Ruy Braga (University of São Paulo)
ruy.braga@uol.com.br
David Flores (University of Michigan).
Fábio P. M. Silva (University of São Paulo).
Vitor C. Vaneti (University of São Paulo).

5. THE STATE AND TRANSNATIONAL
LABOR MOVEMENTS: THE CASE OF
SEWA IN INDIA
Rina Agarwala
Johns Hopkins University
agarwala@jhu.edu

Session 6: NEO-LIBERALISM AND ITS
VULNERABILITIES, Wednesday 14 July
10.45-12.45

Session organizer: Rick Fantasia, Smith
College/USA (rfantasi@smith.edu)

1) Lu Zhang, Post-doctoral Fellow, Research
Center for Chinese Politics and Business,
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.
Email: zhanglu@indiana.edu

Paper title: "Flexibilization of Labor,
Countermovement, and Changing State-
Labor-Capital Relations: Evidence from
China’s Automobile Industry"

2) Belinda Leach, Professor of Anthropology,
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario,
Canada.
bleach@uoguelph.ca
and
Charlotte A.B. Yates, Professor of Labour
Studies and Political Science, McMaster
University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
yatesch@mcmaster.ca

"Solidarity Revisited: situating working class
solidarity in the interstices of work, home
and community"

3) Emmanuel Abiodun Fayankinnu,
Department of Sociology, Adejunle Ajasin
University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State,
Nigeria.
yahdammy@yahoo.com

"Neo-Liberal Reforms and Organised
Labour's Responses in Ghana and Nigeria"

4) Jeffrey J. Sallaz, Department of Sociology,
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
jsallaz@email.arizona.edu

"New Social Movements and Neoliberalism:
The Two-Faces of Employment Equity"

5) Marcos Ancelovici, Department of
Sociology, McGill University, Montreal,
Canada
marcos.ancelovici@mcgill.ca

"Field Overlap and the Dynamic of
Antisweatshop Campaigns: The Case of the
Clean Clothes Campaign in France"

6) Rob Lambert, Winthrop Professor,
Business School, University of Western
Australia
rlambert@biz.uwa.edu.au
"The Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis &
Trade Union Response"

Session 7: WOMEN AND UNION
REVITALIZATION, Wednesday 14 July
15.30-17.30

Organized by Charlotte Yates, Dean of Social
Sciences, McMaster University
(yatesch@mcmaster.ca)

“Understanding the variations of the “glass
ceiling” within and across unions: the
heuristic interest of a “union career”
methodology”
Guillaume Cécile, Université de Lille 1,
France, cecile.guillaume@univ-lille1.fr, and
Sophie.Pochic@ens.fr

“Outsourced Hospital Cleaners and Dietary
Aids: Fighting the Deleterious Consequences
of Privatization and Contracting Out for
Visible Minority Immigrant Women in British
Columbia"
Session 8: RETHINKING SOCIAL MOVEMENT UNIONISM FROM THE PERIPHERY: COMPARATIVE DILEMMAS AND PROSPECTS, Wednesday 14 July 17.45-19.45

Co-organizers:
Jennifer Chun, University of British Columbia, Canada, jjchun@interchange.ubc.ca
Karl Von Holdt, University of Witswatersand, South Africa, karl@yeoville.org.za

1. Social movement unionism in the context of democratization
Gay Seidman, University of Wisconsin, Madison, US, seidman@ssc.wisc.edu

2. New ways of “social movement unionism” in Brazil?
José Ricardo Ramalho, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, jricardoramalho@uol.com.br

3. Rethinking Contentious Labour Politics in Post-Authoritarian South Africa and South Korea
Jennifer Chun, University of British Columbia, Canada, jjchun@interchange.ubc.ca

4. Whither Social Movement Unionism?
Kim Voss, University of California, Berkeley, kimvoss@berkeley.edu

5. Theoretical Confusion in the Labor Movement: Disentangling “Social Movement Unionism” from “Social Justice Unionism”
Kim Scipes, Purdue University North Central, US, kscipes@pnc.edu*

6. Social Movement Unionism in Japan from a Comparative Perspective
Akira Suzuki, Ohara Institute for Social Research, Hosei University, Japan, insmove@hosei.ac.jp

7. Beyond state and citizenship: workers’ politics in the neo-liberal era
Manjusha Nair, Rutgers University, nairmanjusha@gmail.com

8. Integrating ‘the Movement of the Marginalised Labour Force’ into ‘Social Movement Unionism’ Approach
Ercüment Celik, University of Freiburg, Germany, ercumentcelik@gmail.com*

* Not presenting paper.

Session 9. THE GLOBALIZATION OF GUEST WORKER PROGRAMS: UNDERSTANDING THEIR RESURGENCE AND CRITIQUING THEIR CONSEQUENCES FOR LABOR, Thursday 15 July 10.45-12.45
Session Co-organizers:
Robyn Rodriguez, Rutgers University/USA
(robynmrodriguez@optonline.net)
Hsia Hsiao-Chuan, Shih Hsin University/Taiwan

ASIA:
Wayne Palmer
wayne.palmer@usyd.edu.au
Bilateral Labour Agreements and Migrant Worker Rights: A Critical Assessment of the Agreements that Govern Indonesian Labour Migration to Malaysia

E. EUROPE (CZECH REPUB)
Marek Čaněk
PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science, Charles University, Czech Republic
marek_canek@yahoo.com
The competition state and the expansion of the guest-worker programs: the case of the Czech Republic

Short- and long-range labor migrations in state-socialist Central Europe
Alena Alamgir, Rutgers University, akalamgir@gmail.com

CANADA
Mark Thomas is Associate Professor of Sociology at York University.
Email: mpthomas@yorku.ca
Minimum Standards and “Reliable Workers”: Labor Rights in Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Programs

Globalizing guestworker programs in an era of neoliberal immigration
Aziz Choudry, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University
aziz.choudry@mcgill.ca

Organizing labour in the informal economy: forms of organization and relationships
Chris Bonner and Dave Spooner

Trade Unions and the political representation of unorganised sector workers in India
Michael Gillan

Organising the Informal Sector: the case of Mozambique. Pauline Dibben
(Note: papers by Dibben and Gillan will be merged into one presentation)

Class trouble - On organizing informal workers in Nicaragua. Julia Loge

Reconstructing the Political: Mall committees and South African precarious retail workers. Bridget Kenny

Decent work: Organising across the formal-informal divide in Nigeria and Ghana.
Gunilla Andrae and Björn Beckman

Making communities work? The politics of casualisation in Delft, Cape Town.* Marianne Millstein and David Jordhus-Lier

Working across formal/informal sector divide. Women in agricultural production: two case studies.* Susie Jacobs

Beyond organizing, toward collective identity: trade union representation of precarious workers in Korean auto companies.* Aelim Yun

Session 11: BUSINESS SESSION, Thursday 15 July 17.45-19.45
We will discuss all RC-44 issues, elect new officers and a new council, consider the direction of RC-44 for the future, assess the program to that point, think about ways to remain connected going forward, and make announcements or offer thoughts about publications, journals, conferences, events, teaching strategies, defending ourselves against administrators and the outside world, the relation of theory to practice, and whatever else it might be.

Session 12: LABOUR AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Friday 16 July 10.45-12.45
We will discuss all RC-44 issues, elect new officers and a new council, consider the direction of RC-44 for the future, assess the program to that point, think about ways to remain connected going forward, and make announcements or offer thoughts about publications, journals, conferences, events, teaching strategies, defending ourselves against administrators and the outside world, the relation of theory to practice, and whatever else it might be.
Session organizer: Jacklyn Cock, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
(jacklyn.cock@wits.ac.za)

1. Labour-environment coalition building
   Presenters: (a) Joanna Robinson (University of British Columbia, Canada) 'Mobilizing Against Water Privatization: a comparative analysis of labour-environment coalitions in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and Stockton, California, USA'
   (b) Daisy Rooks (University of Montana) 'Negotiating the Rural Landscape: Community Benefits, Agreements and Labor/Environment Coalitions in Small Town America'

2. Transnational issues
   Presenters: (a) Gay Seidman (University of Wisconsin, USA) 'Transnational challenges: what can labor activists learn from environmental campaigns and vice versa?'
   (b) Nora Rathzel (Umea University, Sweden) and David Uzzell (University of Surrey, UK) 'Trade Unions facing the dual challenge of globalising work division and globalising environmental degradation'

3. Green jobs
   Presenters: Caleb Goods (PhD student at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia) 'Fusing Labour and the Environment: the 'Green Jobs' solution'
   (b) Andrew Bennie (PhD student University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) 'The ecological and social impacts of mining and implications for the labour movement: a case study of Xolobeni, South Africa'

4. Abstract accepted but not presenting:
   (a) Hwa-Jen Lieu (PhD student, National Taiwan University) 'Mirrored Trajectories of Labour and Environmental Movements: The cases of Taiwan and South Korea'
   (b) David Peetz (Griffith University, Australia) 'Union Activism and Climate Change Action'
   (c) Dimitris Stevis (Colorado State University, USA) 'Greening nationalism? US Labour Unions and the Environment'
   (d) Rob Lambert (University of Western Australia) and Jacklyn Cock (University of the Witwatersrand, S.A) 'Globalising local resistance: case studies of Arcelor and SIGTUR'

Session 13: LABOR GEOGRAPHIES,
Friday 16 July 15.30-17.30
Session organizer: Jamie Peck, University of British Columbia, Canada
(Jamie.peck@ubc.ca)

1 Jane Wills, Queen Mary, University of London (j.wills@qmul.ac.uk) Citizenship, low waged workers and alternative geographies of organisation

2 Christian Berndt, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (c.berndt@em.uni-frankfurt.de) The mobilization and dis/placement of labor in the network economy

3 Tod Rutherford, Syracuse University (trutherf@maxwell.syr.edu) Towards a Comparative Labour Geography

4 Bradon Ellem, University of Sydney (b.ellem@econ.usyd.edu.au) Labour, Geography and Labour Geography: Where Next?

5 Jamie Peck, University of British Columbia (jamie.peck@ubc.ca) Elliot Siemiatycki, University of British Columbia (esiemiat@interchange.ubc.ca) Nik Theodore, University of Illinois at Chicago (theodore@uic.edu) Labor geographies at work: retrospect and prospect

6 Mark Thomas, York University (mpthomas@yorku.ca) Global Unions and Local Labor: A Case Study of the ITF Labor Rights Strategy in the International Shipping Industry

7 Sonia M K Guimaraes, UFRGS (00004627@ufrgs.br) Globalization, Transnational Enterprises and Global Unionism

Session 14: INNOVATIVE ORGANISING RESPONSES TO TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS, Friday 16 July 17.45-19.45
Session organizer: Donella Caspersz, UWA Business School, University of Western Australia, 35 Crawley Rd, Nedlands, WA, 6009 (dcaspersz@biz.uwa.edu.au)

1. Immigration in Portugal – New Challenges for the Trade Unions. Is there a link between
flexible work and needs for immigrant labour?
Marina Kolarova, School of Economics and Management, Techncial University of Lisbon
Researcher in SOCIUS (Research Center in Economic and Organizational Sociology, School of Economics and Management, Technical University of Lisbon)
Address: R. D. Afonso de Bourbon, Lt. 5, 2º
D, Alapraia, 2765-462, Portugal
e-mail: maalko@portugalmail.pt

2. Guglielmo Meardi, University of Warwick,
United Kingdom,
Guglielmo.Meardi@wbs.ac.uk
Worker(s) movement and crisis: unions, migrants and posted workers in the construction sectors' turmoil in UK and Spain, 2008-10

3. Trade Union Organizing Determination – What are the drivers?
Nana Wesley Hansen & Jens Arnholtz Hansen, University of Copenhagen,
Denmark, NHa@faos.dk and jh@faos.dk

Steve French, Keele University, United Kingdom, s.r.french@hrm.keele.ac.uk

5. GUF Strategies on Temporary Labour Migration at the Regional Level in Southeast Asia
Michele Ford, Email:
Michele.Ford@usyd.edu.au

6. Engaging transnationality: the internationalisation of the building and construction industry’s workforce and challenging of organising
Stuart Rosewarne, Department of Political Economy, The University of Sydney, Australia, stuart.rosewarne@arts.usyd.edu.au

7. Temporary Labour Migration in Australia and Union Response: The case study of Long Stay Visa (subclass 457) in Australia
Donella Caspersz, University of Western Australia, dcasperz@biz.uwa.edu.au

8. Temporary Migration, Transnational Politics? The politics of temporary migration in Australia
Nicole Oke, Deakin University, Australia, nicole.oke@deakin.edu.au

In the thirty years since Deng Xiaoping’s ‘Open Door Policy’ of 1978, China has become the largest recipient of foreign capital, and a large part of China’s trading activity is with the rest of the world. The implication of this open door policy on Chinese workers can be seen in the 1988 Coastal Development Strategy, which was laid out by Zhao Ziyang. The Costal Development Strategy not only expanded those existing liberalizing policies of welcoming Foreign Direct Investment to the entire coast, but also introduced a new developmental strategy: China would begin to use its comparative advantage to attract labour-intensive manufacturing. In this way, China would begin to compete in the global market place as a new location for the inexpensive manufacturing of exports.

Since 2008 January 1, China has implemented the new labour contract law, this implementation triggered a rather complicated employer-labour relationship. The new labour contract law has been regarded to protect labour rather than employers. Scholars and researchers have recommended that this is the most complete regulation to protect labours’ right in the world. Therefore it should be a merit for Chinese government to promulgate this law.

It can be seen that the implementation of new labour contract caused many investors’ to increase human capital. Furthermore, in the second half of 2008, whole global economy experienced the worst recession. These developments did not help Chinese labours, due to the higher wage and poorer economy, most investors disregarded the new labour contract and hired illegal labours to work. Therefore, Chinese labours although have already had a protective law, their had even worse situation than before.

Under this circumstance, a question probably could be raised: where is the Chinese trade union which can represent the rights of Chinese labours? In the developed world, in facing mass lay-offs, strong, active trade unions should be the best negotiators to represent workers in front of government. Nevertheless, the All China Federation of
The ACFTU was inaugurated in 1953 and is the largest federation of trade unions in China, but it is a semi-official organisation. The criticism of the ACFTU is that it is affiliated to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Many studies have shown the impotence of the ACFTU in representing Chinese workers. According to Judy Howell, the problem for the ACFTU is twofold: first, it is not clear whom the ACFTU should represent, the workers or the party; second, it is not clear how the ACFTU should represent such a differentiated and diffuse workforce as that in China. Not only did the semi-official structure of the ACFTU weaken its voice in front of the state; the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown further undermined its potential for acting as an independent trade union. According to Anita Chan, the consequence of the 1989 Tiananmen massacre was that the state tightened its control on any organized union, including the ACFTU, thus undercutting the union’s traditional base in the state enterprises. She argued that the national political leadership increasingly accepted privatisation, for instance the SOEs reform in the mid-1990s, flexibility of labour and integration with the global market, the pursuit of economic development instead of equality. The ACFTU under strong pressure from the government gradually accepted this reality, while lower-level trade union cadres had no concept of activist trade unionism. Securing their own survival instead of protecting workers’ interests therefore prevailed in the understanding of the ACFTU officials.

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In a visit to the United States in 2003, Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo even referred to herself as not only the head of state but also “the CEO of a global Philippine enterprise of eight million Filipinos who live and work abroad.”

Robyn Magalit Rodriguez investigates how and why the Philippine government transformed itself into what she calls a labor brokerage state, which actively prepares, mobilizes, and regulates its citizens for migrant work abroad. Filipino men and women fill a range of jobs around the globe, including domestic work, construction, and engineering, and they have even worked in the Middle East to support U.S. military operations. At the same time, the state redefines nationalism to normalize its citizens to migration while fostering their ties to the Philippines. Those who leave the country to work and send their wages to their families at home are treated as new national heroes.

Drawing on ethnographic research of the Philippine government’s migration bureaucracy, interviews, and archival work, Rodriguez presents a new analysis of
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The global crisis of capitalism is taking a grim toll on working people and the labor movement. Is labor condemned to misery and poverty or can it organize an effective response and go on the offensive?

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LaborComm 2010 aims to assess the impact of the global economic crisis on working people and the labor movement, and also to investigate the way in which acts of resistance use new media. It will strive to interrogate emerging models of communication and to provoke innovative debates about the mechanisms for empowering resistance in the labor movement. LaborComm hopes to expose both the roots and deadlocks of the resistance with creative thinking and debate.

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February 15 2010: Results of the selection process.
April 15 2010: Presenters submit their completed papers. Complete papers should be sent to info@laborcomm.org
The event will be streamed live and all sessions will be available for viewing over the internet

Conference Secretary:
Funda Başaran, Faculty of Communication, Ankara University
Gamze Yücesan-Özdemir, Faculty of Communication, Ankara University
The main Call For Papers and information about other conference arrangements are on the Conference Website at www.laborcomm.org

(*)The Istanbul International Labor Film Festival has been held between May 1st and May 9th since 2006. The festival is organized by the Turkish Medical Association, Halkevleri and 7 labor unions from the largest 3 labor confederations.
screens labor films in the largest 15 cities in Turkey. This year the festival will be held between May 1st and May 9th, 2010, where 50 films from 25 countries will be screened. Many producers from several countries will participate in the event. For more information please visit: http://festival.sendika.org/
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