

**Labour Movements  
Research Committee (RC 44)**

<http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/globallabour/>

**December 2004**

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**Mission of RC44**

To encourage international research on labour movements, with a focus on their role both in industrial relations and in the political arena. Membership is open to any person engaged in research into Labour Movements or in Labour Movement activities.

**Editor's Notes**

Editions of the newsletter that have come out since the Brisbane Congress of the ISA in 2002 have covered numerous activities by scholars, researchers and activists of labour movements across the globe. Judging from these activities there is a renewed and growing interest in the labour movement. Indeed, many look up to the labour movement as one of the last defences against the ravages of neo-liberal globalisation.

As in previous editions, in this edition we report on conferences and research centres that focus on the labour movement. We regard these reports to be a vital aspect of the information sharing and networking that is necessary for building RC44. We try to look for events and activities in new regions and this time Eddie Webster reports on the American Sociological Association. We also profile research units in Sweden, Zimbabwe and Canada.

But the most important objective of this edition is to begin preparations for the ISA Congress in Durban in 2006. In this regard, we present a preliminary call for papers in which we identify the various sessions for RC44. In this call for papers, we have 13 sessions. But, at the moment, this is merely a 'wish list'. According to the ISA Secretariat, our current membership of 43 entitles us to 8 regular sessions and 2 additional ones, which can be used for a Business Meeting and Dinner.

The core issue therefore is about membership of RC44. As of today RC44 has 43 members, 6 of them need to renew their membership in January 2005. It is crucial that those who are due for renewal of membership do so before 15 April 2005 when a final allocation of sessions will take place. If our membership drops below 40, RC44 will be allowed to organize only 6 regular and 2 additional sessions.

The above calls for urgent attention by all members of our RC. We need to make sure that the increasing interest in labour studies in general translates into more members. The various networks that organise and participate in conferences and debates and publish in journals and books need to be encouraged to join RC44. Labour studies often straddles many disciplines and, indeed, many of those who participate in conferences and debates are also activists in their own right. We need to extend our reach to researchers of labour movements who fall under other disciplines. Finally, RC44 needs to reach out to more researchers and activists in the Global South. In that way we can make Durban 2006 a moment for a truly global intellectual exchange on labour movements in a globalising world.

**Sakhela Buhlungu**

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## REPORT

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 99<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
San Francisco, California 14-17 August 2004  
LABOUR AND LABOUR MOVEMENTS' SECTION  
Edward Webster

A very successful and enjoyable annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) was held in California in August. The theme of the meeting was Public Sociologies. The term public sociology was invented in the United States to criticise and counter mounting professionalisation. In many countries of today, the term public sociology is not necessary as sociology is presumed to be public. In order to illustrate this point, the ASA invited representatives from different regions of the world to discuss the distinctive configurations of national public sociologies and the issues they address. Seven panels were drawn from East Asia, India, Latin America, Palestine, post-communist societies, the United States and South Africa.

I was part of the South African panel and took advantage of the opportunity to draw some lessons from labour sociologists in the United States. I was able to attend five of the seven sessions of the Labour and Labour Movements Section of the ASA, a relatively new Section of the ASA, which has 300 members. There are forty-four Sections in the ASA and the number of sessions allocated to each Section is based on the size of the membership of the Section.

The first session I attended was on Union Organising in the Service Sector. There were four papers presented covering organising in the hospitality sector; constructing moral boundaries in care work; organising family childcare providers; and the concept of social justice unionism in a hotel union. The issues raised in discussion focused around the massive growth of service work in the United States, the difference between organising in the manufacturing sector and the service sector, the intangible nature of service work and the fact that it is often not a conventional employee-employer relationship.

The next session involved five roundtables that took place simultaneously in one large seminar room. **The themes of the roundtables were:**

- International/transnational organising, focused on building international workers' solidarity
- Changing relations of US unions with immigrants and minorities
- Challenges facing labour organisers in the US
- Problems facing workers in the developing world, with a focus on India, Korea and Japan
- The effects of changing labour force characteristics for union organisation in the US.

The roundtable was followed by the business meeting, which was attended by over one hundred people. The current chair of the Labour and Labour Movements Section is Ruth Milkman, Dan Clawson follows in 2005 and Peter Evans in 2006. An interesting feature of the business meeting was a student prize for the best graduate student paper and a prize for the most distinguished scholarly article, which went to Rick Fantasia. What was of particular interest to me was the identification of topics for next year's annual meeting.

**These were some of the suggestions:**

- The multiple identities of workers
- The impact of job insecurity on union organisation
- Walmart
- Contending labour federations
- International labour perspectives, with a particular interest in Brazil, Scandinavia and South Africa
- Human rights as worker rights
- Innovative uses of information technology by unions

The business meeting adjourned early so that members could participate in a protest at the reception of the hotel over the struggle for a union contract. I enjoyed observing approximately 50 of my colleagues waving placards and chanting "Contract Now!" to a bewildered management.

The next session was on student activism and the labour movement. This session focused on the re-emergence of student activism around labour rights in sweatshops, in particular, codes of conduct. I was interested to learn that the AFL/CIO had come to the ASA a few years ago to recruit student activists into their organisers' programme. A discussion took place around the differences in student activism in the 60s and the current phase.

Peter Evans organised a session under the title "Can transnational mobilisation change globalisation?" Five papers were presented examining the opportunities and constraints involved in challenging globalisation;

- Kjeld Jakobsen spoke on CUT, the Brazilian trade union federation and the links they had established with other unions in the Global South,
- Pun Ngai on the role of NGOs in the anti-sweatshop movement in Asia,
- Kati Quan on the prospects of the Chinese labour movement,
- Beverly Silver on the persistence of the North/South divide,
- And Mark Anner on organising in EPZs in the apparel industry.

The last session I attended on labour was a panel discussion on **Dan Clawson's** brave and exciting new book, *The Next Upsurge: Labor and the New Social Movements*. **Steve Lopez**, author of the recent book, *Reorganising the Rust Belt: An Inside study of the American Labour Movement*, challenged Clawson's central argument that labour grows by upsurges; **Huw Beynon** problematized the nature of the links between unions and the new social movements; **Roberto Franzosi** suggested the need to extend the focus of our studies beyond labour in the United States; and **Ann Mische** suggested that Clawson had presented us with a non-falsifiable proposition.

On the last day, the Business meeting of the ASA was held at 7:00am. It was dominated by two resolutions on labour issues, both of which were carried unanimously. The first was that the ASA meetings should in future be held in hotels where unions were recognised. The second resolution affirmed the collective bargaining rights of graduate student teachers and research assistants in sociology and other disciplines.

Clearly, Labour Studies is experiencing something of an upsurge in the United States. I was struck by the wave of excellent books on labour especially the current strategies of revitalisation. We will be reviewing many of these in forthcoming editions of the Newsletter. I have invited a number of leading scholars in the Labor and Labor Movements Section of ASA to participate in RC44 in Durban in 2006. We have a lot to learn from our colleagues in the ASA and they are keen to learn from the perspectives of labour elsewhere in the world.

Edward Webster  
President of RC44  
[webstere@social.wits.ac.za](mailto:webstere@social.wits.ac.za)

<b>PROFILE</b>	<b>POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PODSU)</b>
<b>RESEARCH UNIT</b>	<b>STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN</b>
	<b>Bjorn Beckman - <a href="mailto:bjorn.beckman@statsvet.su.se">bjorn.beckman@statsvet.su.se</a></b>

The Politics of Development Group (PODSU) is a development studies research unit in the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, with comparative labour studies as one of its major profiles. Some early members have a background in AKUT (Working Group for the Study of Development Strategies), a radical political economy programme in the Uppsala-Stockholm region, which contributed to labour studies in the book titled, *Workers in Third-World Industrialization*, edited by Inga Brandell (Macmillan 1991). In the early 1990s, AKUT co-operated with African labour scholars in a joint Nigeria-Algeria project. Lars Lindström and Emmanuel Akwetey produced studies on South Korean, Ghanaian and Zambian trade union politics (*Accumulation, Regulation and Political Struggles*, Stockholm 1993; *Trade Unions and Democratisation*, Stockholm 1994). Eva Hansson, another member, studies trade unions and civil society in Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam (see Beckman, Hansson, Román (eds), *Vietnam Reform and Transformation*, Stockholm 1997). Lindström has pursued his studies on labour politics in South Korea and Mexico. Beckman, Lindström and Akwetey did a joint study on “Labour Unions, Social Pacts and Democratization” for United Nations Research Institute for Social Development UNRISD in 2000.

Bjorn Beckman, the co-ordinator of the PODSU programme until 2003, has a background in Ghana and Nigeria where he has been involved in teaching and research since the mid 1960s. A joint study with Gunilla Andrae on the Nigerian textile workers union, *Union Power*, was published in 1998 (Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, and Centre for Research and Documentation (CRD), Kano). Joint PODSU-CRD workshops have been held with Nigerian trade unions. A workshop comparing African trade unions was held at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Zimbabwe, in the late 1990s, and Beckman and L.M. Sachikonye (University of Zimbabwe Publications, 2001) edited a book on *Labour Regimes and Liberalization*. A colloquium on “State-Labour Regimes and Agrarian Reforms in Africa” was organized by IDS in Harare in 2002. Beckman is currently engaged in a comparative study of “African Trade Unions and the Politics of Reform”, with special focus on Nigeria and South Africa but with a wider comparative context linked to the PODSU-IDS network. A joint workshop with the Sociology of Work Unit (SWOP), University of Witwatersrand and the Department of Agrarian and Labour Studies on “Trade Union and Politics: Africa in a Comparative Perspective” is planned for 2006.

<b>PROFILE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN AND LABOUR STUDIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH UNIT</b>	<b>INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IDS)</b>
	<b>UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE</b>

The Department of Agrarian and Labour Studies at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Zimbabwe, is one of the major centres of labour studies in the Southern African region. The current Chair of the Department is Professor L.M.Sachikonye, who has written extensively on labour and politics in Zimbabwe and southern Africa, since the 1980s when he did his doctorate at Leeds, including frequent contributions to the *Review of African Political Economy*. He has published a study on labour and industrialization in Zimbabwe under structural adjustment, *Restructuring or De-Industrializing?* Uppsala: Nordic Africa Institute 1999) and *Striking Back: The Labour Movement and the Post-Colonial State in Zimbabwe* (Harare: Weaver Press, 2001), which was jointly edited with Brian Raftopoulos, a labour historian also based at IDS. In recent years, Sachikonye has particularly focused on farm labour, which is a major issue in the controversial ‘fast track’ land reform process. See also *Post Independence Land Reform in Zimbabwe* edited by another member of the Department, M.Masiwa (Harare: FES, IDS 2004). A joint workshop with PODSU, the Politics of Development Group, Stockholm University, on African trade unions was held at IDS in 1996, resulting in a book *Labour Regimes and Liberalization: The Restructuring of State-Society Relations in Africa*, which was jointly edited by Sachikonye and Bjorn Beckman (University of Zimbabwe Publications, 2001). A combined book launch and colloquium on “Labour Regimes and Agrarian Reforms in Africa” was organized by the Department in Harare, in July 2002. On that occasion another book from the Department edited by A.Sibanda and D.Nyamukapa, *Industrial Relations and Structural Adjustment Programmes in Africa* (Harare: IIRA, FES, and ZIRA), was also presented.

<b>PROFILE</b>  <b>LABOUR STUDIES</b>	<b>MCMASTER UNIVERSITY</b> <b>HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA</b>  <a href="http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/">http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/</a>
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The Labour Studies Programme at McMaster University is an internationally recognized program that promotes the interdisciplinary understanding of labour, both paid and unpaid, and working people in their communities and organizations. It has created a unique collaborative working environment for sociologists, political scientists and economists, social workers and historians to come together as faculty and students with members of the community and labour organizations to further a better understanding of labour issues and work.

Established in the mid-1970s within the social sciences, Labour Studies offers certificate and undergraduate education in labour studies as well as a Masters degree in Work and Society. We offer a range of research and teaching opportunities to our students who have gone on to work in the labour movement, public sector and community organizations and labour relations. Labour Studies is at the forefront of developing on-line educational resources (**see our on-line resource centre at <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/onlinelearningcentre/index.html>**) and offers students unique opportunities for problem-based learning.

Faculty work closely with trade unions and other progressive community organizations to foster a better understanding of work and society through labour education and collaborative research projects. The research activities of the unit are housed in the Institute on Work in a Global Society, which includes a recently launched working paper series. Research projects include studies of the relationship between work organization and heart disease; the impact of globalization on work-family balance; the treatment of contract workers globally; harassment and violence in public sector workplaces and union renewal. Labour Studies regularly hosts conferences such as the international conference entitled “Workers and Labour Markets in the Global Automotive Industry”, held on October 22-24, 2004.

**For more information, please feel free to contact us at:**

Labour Studies Programme, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario  
L8S 4M4 Canada Telephone: (905) 525-9140 extension 24692

Web address: <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/>

**ISA 4<sup>th</sup> WORLDWIDE COMPETITION FOR JUNIOR SOCIOLOGISTS**

This competition is for junior scholars who are engaged in social research, i.e. people under 35 years of age on May 1st, 2005. The winners will be invited to participate in the XVI World Congress of Sociology, which will take place in Durban, South Africa, July 2006. The winners' papers will be considered for publication in English, subject to editorial decision and revision, in the ISA's journal *International Sociology*, or in another ISA publication.

For additional information, visit the website: <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/wcys/index.htm> OR  
Contact Kenneth Thompson at the Competition Secretariat: [k.a.thompson@open.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.thompson@open.ac.uk)



Call for  
Papers

*LABOUR, Capital and Society*  
*TRAVAIL, Capital et Société*

Special Issue/Numéro thématique:

Labour And Globalization:  
From New Organizations Of Production To International Labour Solidarity

Guest Editor: Suzanne Dansereau

The current expansion of globalization is subjecting workers and their organizations to profound pressure. New ways of organizing production, the growing integration of commodity and value chains and the increased replacement of real jobs by work in the informal sector are reshaping the labour process. Workers and their organizations are responding through their own form of labour internationalism with increased focus on the complex interconnection between global and local conditions. The result is the emergence of new ways of working together through new partnerships and global campaigns.

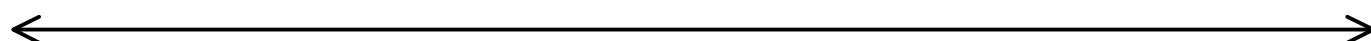
This special issue seeks papers addressing issues of changing organization of production and labour internationalism and new forms of resistance. Among the possible topics are the examination of the growing similarity between the organization of work in the North and South; new partnerships between trade unions in North and South; alliances between labour and social groups, including the anti-globalization movement and global campaigns such as the anti-sweatshop campaign; and organizing in the informal sector. It also seeks discussions of the broader theoretical issues underpinning current debates on the contribution of labour and its allies to resistance and social change; the changing nature of the working class; and the gendered nature of the changing organization of production and labour internationalism.

The issue will consist of a mixture of articles from a scholarly perspective as well as pertinent book reviews. We are particularly interested in receiving descriptions and discussions from activist groups and trade unions on their work in the face of a changing organization of production and in solidarity with allies and partners in the North and the South. Special themes include:

- Labour and global production – new forms of labour process;
- New forms of labour internationalism – solidarity building;
- Global campaigns such as anti-sweatshop campaigns and others;
- Labour and democracy;
- Organizing the unorganized.

**DEADLINE:** Please forward an *Abstract* or *Statement of Interest* by 5 January 2005 to:  
Dr Suzanne Dansereau, St Mary's University, Canada

**E-mail:** [sedemc@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sedemc@ns.sympatico.ca)





The Canadian Council of Area Studies Learned Societies (CCASLS), in conjunction with the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS), the Canadian Asian Studies Association (CASA), The Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), and the Canadian Association of Middle Eastern Studies (CANMES) is pleased to announce a call for papers for its inaugural, multidisciplinary conference. Panel proposals are strongly encouraged, since it will ensure interesting and thematically coherent sessions, of course, individual proposals are equally welcome. All proposals should fall into the theme of the conference.

**CONFERENCE THEME: Furthering the Globalization Debate: Cross Regional Comparisons**

CCASLS represents several Area Studies societies covering Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. While Appadurai considers Area Studies as 'the largest institutional epistemology through which the academy has apprehended the world in the last fifty years', it is clear that the reluctance to transcend regional or local boundaries, or move outside traditional disciplines, has hampered our attempts to elucidate the structures and processes that are often only vaguely captured by the catch-all abstraction called 'globalization'.

This CCASLS conference is an attempt to integrate the academy with NGOs and policy makers, to bring together scholars from different regions and perspectives who often "dig long and deep" in their own case study areas while remaining oblivious to the theories and methodologies of those asking the same research questions in other places, to make sense of the real, existing impacts of globalization by presenting "deep" comparisons of places, cultures and economies; to understand the changing structures and processes of world history so that we may "historicize" globalization.

We ask for papers that address the theory and methodology of comparativism; that integrate regional studies in a comparative context; and that help us understand the social variables that constitute particular regional or local studies, so that such studies can be matched with similar research projects from other places. Papers must conform to the overall theme and/or the sub-themes. Potential contributors who are unsure which sub-theme is appropriate for their papers should specify "Other" and leave the decision to the Program Committee. Papers, which are irrelevant to the objectives of the conference, will not be accepted.

**The sub-themes are:**

1. Theorizing the Integration of Area Studies
2. Capitalism and the New World Order
3. Historicizing Globalization
4. Social Inequality and Social Cohesion
5. Health, Disease and Society
6. Globalization and the International Division of Labour
7. National and Cultural Sovereignty
8. Other

**Submission Deadline:** All submissions, panel or individual, must be received no later than December 15, 2004. Please ensure all files are saved as RTF (rich text format), Word, or WordPerfect files if submitted as attachments. Please forward your submission to the CCASLS conference program Committee at one of the following: [bellis@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:bellis@alcor.concordia.ca) or [ampiccio@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:ampiccio@alcor.concordia.ca)  
Membership fees and application forms can be found on each association web site:

<http://calacs.concordia.ca>

<http://caas.concordia.ca>

<http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca>

<http://canmes.concordia.ca>

**Announcement of Accepted Proposals:** The list of accepted proposals will be posted sometime in January 2005, under conference at the Canadian Council for Area Studies Learned Societies website; <http://ccasls.concordia.ca>.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
XVI World Congress, Durban. South Africa  
Sunday 23 July to Saturday 29 July 2006

THEME: The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World

THEME FOR RC44 PROGRAMME

Global Restructuring and the New Worlds of Work, Rediscovering the Power of the Labour Movement

RC44 CALL FOR PAPERS (DRAFT)

THIS CALL FOR PAPERS FOR IS PRELIMINARY. THE FINAL SESSIONS AND DATES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS TO THE SESSION ORGANISERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, ONCE WE HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT THE NUMBER OF BOTH ISA AND RC44 MEMBERS AND THEREFORE, THE NUMBER OF SESSIONS WE ARE ENTITLED TO.

**REMINDER:** Please check with the ISA Secretariat, [isa@cps.ucm.es](mailto:isa@cps.ucm.es) if you are duly registered at ISA and RC44 Labor Movements. If not, we encourage you to do so before the end of February 2005 in order for the RC44 to be allowed to participate in the proposed sessions. ISA membership form is available at

<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/>

**1. Theorising Labour**

This session will focus on labour and its continual relevance for social theory. The session could be organised around Coates's argument for a rediscovery and a recentering of labour as a key focus of academic scholarship. Coates has argued for a reintroduction of Marxism, a revitalisation of Marxist theory that would allow for a recentering of labour as an object of study.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** David Coates, Worrell Professor of Anglo-American Studies, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA    **E-mail:** [coatesd@wfu.edu](mailto:coatesd@wfu.edu)

**2. Labour History in the Era of Neoliberal globalisation**

This session could complement the theory session, i.e. the significance of labour as a category, the significance of a Labour history at a time where the category of labour is being obliterated. The history of trade unionism is rich and diverse. This session attempts to capture these histories both in the north (Europe, North America) and in the south. These histories raise many of the issues grappled with in the various sessions of the RC44 programme, such as forms of organisation; social movements; politics.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Craig Phelan, Editor of the journal, Labour History, Department of American Studies, University of Wales, Swansea, UK    **E-mail:** [c.l.phelan@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:c.l.phelan@swansea.ac.uk)

**3. Global Corporate Restructuring**

Economic deregulation flowing from neo-liberalism has intensified global competition, which has resulted in an acceleration of mergers and acquisitions, labour process change, work intensification, internal labour market segmentation, factory closures and waves of investment in the south. This session explores these changes and considers their implications for labour movements

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Rob Lambert, Organisational and Labour Studies, School of Business, University of Western Australia, Perth, AUSTRALIA    **E-mail:** [rlambert@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rlambert@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

**4. Changing Worlds of Work**

The restructuring flowing from neo-liberalism has resulted in a core/periphery segmentation of internal labour markets, reflected in the division between full time and casual workers. High rates of casualization have undermined labour movements that have historically only organised full time,

permanent workers. Outside the band of part-time/casual workers are those in the informal sector, which constitutes large numbers of workers in the south. Notable changes in working time arrangements have been a key feature of this restructuring. This session will explore the nature of these changes and their implications for the future of labour movements.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Iain Campbell, Applied Social Research Centre, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia  
**E-mail:** [Iain.Campbell@rmit.edu.au](mailto:Iain.Campbell@rmit.edu.au)

## 5. Gender and Labour

This session will focus on the gender implications of the restructuring of work and the responses of labour to these changes. In addition, gender relations within the labour movement will be examined, particularly with regards to the role played by women in union revitalization. Globalization has led to the massive growth of the economy, in particular the service sector. The session will explore whether and how forms of managerial control in these new sectors are gendered and what this implies for collective organization.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Suzanne Franzway, Gender Studies Unit, University of South Australia, Magill Campus, Lorne Ave, Magill, South Australia, AUSTRALIA

**E-mail:** [suzanne.franzway@unisa.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.franzway@unisa.edu.au)

## 6. Labour and Social Movements

This session will examine the impact of neo-liberal globalisation on labour movements as well as the responses of labour movements to these global challenges. In particular, the session should explore whether (and how) labour movements are finding common cause with other working class movements who are facing marginalisation and social exclusion. Will economic and workplace restructuring and the consequent exclusion of large sections of the working class create conditions that will lead to 'the next upsurge'? It may be a good idea to solicit papers from specific countries in the North and the South and to draw out comparative issues in the session. In addition, we should get papers that discuss these issues at a global level.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Dan Clawson, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA.  
**E-mail:** [clawson@SADRI.umass.edu](mailto:clawson@SADRI.umass.edu)

## 7. Models of Union Organisation

Models of unions maintaining high levels of mobilisation and membership involvement in union affairs have continued to elude union movements across the world. Furthermore, the changing nature of work as well as the changing composition of the workforce calls into question the existing models of union organisation. This session will explore new ideas about existing and emerging models of union organisation. Exciting research is emerging out of the UK and the US about trends towards the 'revitalisation' of union organisation, but such revitalisation is not necessarily about going back to organising strategies of the past. On the other hand, some significant movements in the South did not go through similar levels of bureaucratisation as their counterparts in the North. How are they facing up to the challenges of a globalising world?

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Sakhela Buhlungu, Department of Sociology and Sociology of Work Unit, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA  
**E-mail:** [buhlungus@social.wits.ac.za](mailto:buhlungus@social.wits.ac.za)

## 8. Transnational Organising

This session will focus on the limits and possibilities of current attempts for transnational organising. It will take an historical perspective of transnational organisation of the labour movement in different parts of the world. The session will also explore whether or not globalization presents new opportunities for transnational organizing that avoid reproducing relations of inequality between labour movements of the global North and those of the global South. Relations between national and international labour organizations and social movements, which fall under the broad category of the "anti-globalisation

movement”, will also be examined. Papers examining links between labour movements, on the one hand, and organizations that enforce ‘fair globalization’ are welcome in this session.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Peter Evans, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, USA  
**E-mail:** [pevans@socrates.Berkeley.EDU](mailto:pevans@socrates.Berkeley.EDU)

## 9. Trade Unions and Politics

Increasingly major political parties, both conservative and social democrat, are embracing neo-liberal globalisation, with social democratic parties arguing that economic restructuring will generate the wealth needed for social programs. How have unions positioned themselves politically in relation to restructuring? It seems most union movements remain deeply aligned to social democratic parties, despite the impact of restructuring on the labour movement itself. The weakness of union response to restructuring is not unrelated to the lack of an independent politics. This session explores these political contradictions and considers the case for a more independent trade union politics.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Bjorn Beckman, Politics of Development Group, PODSU, Stockholm University, SWEDEN  
**E-mail:** [bjorn.beckman@statsvet.su.se](mailto:bjorn.beckman@statsvet.su.se)

## 10. The Changing Geography of Power

The New Labour Geography analyses the relationship between space and power. Labour movements can re-empower through envisaging new ways of linking the local to the global, of being committed to organising in specific places yet connecting across space in a new, networked form of empowerment. This session will explore the geography of power through specific case studies.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Andrew Herod, Professor of Geography and Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, University of Georgia, Athens, USA  
**E-mail:** [aherod@uga.edu](mailto:aherod@uga.edu)

## 11. Privatisation

Colin Leys in his book, Market Driven Politics, analyses the politics of privatisation and its implication for democracy and cultures of solidarity so central to the maintenance of a vibrant labour movement with the power to influence politics. This session will consider privatisation within this framework of politics, examining privatisation and its impact. Connections between privatisation and the GATS process within the WTO will be highlighted.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Rob Lambert, Organisational and Labour Studies, School of Business, University of Western Australia, Perth, AUSTRALIA  
**E-mail:** [rlambert@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rlambert@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## 12. Organising in the Service Sector

With the shift from manufacturing to service sector jobs there have been a number of innovative attempts to organise workers in the service sector. Arguably, the best known is the “Justice for Janitors’ in California. However, this session will be concerned with comparing the American experience with the rest of the world.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Kim Voss, Department of Sociology and Institute of Industrial Relations Berkeley, USA  
**E-mail:** [kimvoss@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:kimvoss@socrates.berkeley.edu)

## 13. Trade Unions and NGOs

This session will explore the links that have existed (and continue to exist) between unions and a wide range of non-governmental organisations. Some of these NGOs service constituencies that go much beyond the union movement, while others fall into the category of ‘labour support organisations’. Most of these NGOs do not operate as movements themselves but they provide a crucial backup to unions in terms of material and intellectual resources. What are the common issues between these organisations and unions? Are there any contradictions, and if there are, how do they play themselves out. Papers on the relationship between unions and intellectuals in this session will be included.

**SESSION ORGANISER:** Donella Casperza, Organisational and Labour Studies, School of Business, University of Western Australia, Perth, AUSTRALIA  
**E-mail:** [dcasperz@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:dcasperz@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## Join the Research Committee on Labour Movements (RC44)

**What is RC 44?** It is the Research Committee on Labour Movements of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the largest academic forum for those engaged with sociologically related issues of enquiry.

**Mission of RC44:** To encourage international research on labour movements, with a focus on their role both in industrial relations and in the political arena. Membership is open to any person engaged in research into Labour Movements or in Labour Movement activities.

### Benefits of joining RC44:

- An opportunity to engage with interdisciplinary academics/researchers with similar interests. Current membership includes international academics/researchers from Africa, Asia, North and South America, Europe, Oceania and Asia.
- Regular newsletter featuring international articles on labour, reviews of new books, profiles of research units, conference proceedings, comments on recent publications on cutting edge research, conference and doctoral programme announcements, call for papers and more...
- Opportunity to participate in the planning of the RC44 session programme and to present at the next ISA World Congress in Durban, South Africa in 2006.
- Cost: 20 US Dollars for four years

For more information on RC44 visit: <http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/global labour/>

OR E-mail: [antheam@yabo.co.za](mailto:antheam@yabo.co.za) Anthea Metcalfe - Newsletter and membership Coordinator

## How to join the ISA & RC44? Via the ISA website: <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/>

### Benefits of joining the ISA:

- Receive *International Sociology* (the official journal of the ISA)
- *ISA Bulletin* (the ISA newsletter) and the *Directory of Members*
- A discount subscription to the other ISA journal, *Current Sociology*
- Reduction in registration fees at **ISA World Congress**, Durban, South Africa 2006
- **Over 60 years of age** - you qualify for life membership of the ISA. Send a copy of identity documentation showing your birth date. Submit an electronic ISA membership form <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/formisa.htm> indicating your mailing address (and mark the gap Life members). It costs 300 USD and you will never have to renew ISA membership (only Research Committees).