

Labour Movements Research Committee (RC 44)

Vol 4, No 3; November 2010

Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
Message from the Secretary	3
Message from the Vice-President responsible for Communication	4
Featured Article 'Resisting bilateral a free trade and investment agreements'	4
Featured Article: Reflections on the workshop 'Paradigms of Globalization & Trade Union Strategies'	6
Global Labour Journal	7
Book Announcements	7
Conferences/ Announcements	11

Message from the President

Jennifer Jihye Chun

Global Labour Sociology: Expanding Boundaries, Making Connections

Our meetings at the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology this past July in Gothenburg highlighted the dynamism and growth that has taken place in RC-44 over the past four years. Despite the inconvenient location of our sessions and the grueling conference schedule, our sessions were vibrant and well attended. Our opening panel on the public sociology of labour, organized by our new ISA President Michael Burawoy, set an urgent and auspicious tone for the week. Panelists called attention to the challenges facing labour studies in the neoliberal era as well as the key role of progressive community formations and transnational linkages in revitalizing the field. Papers presented throughout the week highlighted exciting new research taking place in the areas of labour migration and migrant worker organizing, precarious work, women's trade unionism, transnational organizing, and labour and environmental struggles among others.

XVIII ISA World Congress of
Sociology
Yokohama, Japan
13-19 July 2014
[http://www.isa-
sociology.org/congress2014/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/)

**International Sociological
Association (ISA),**
Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology
University Complutense 28223,
Madrid, Spain
Phone: +34 91 352 7650; Fax: +34 91 352 4945
E-mail: isa@cps.ucm.es; <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>

The number of participants and the range of issues addressed, both in terms of scope and diversity, reveal the resurgence that is occurring in the global labour sociology community. The continuing assault on social wages and working-class organizations around the world has resulted in the development of important research linking local and national dynamics to broader global processes of change. It has also generated revealing accounts of the situated struggles of workers and the enduring significance of national regulatory frameworks and labour market institutions in shaping the possibilities of real transformation. Whether we are examining Brazilian telemarketing unionists or Chinese construction workers or Polish women workers or international trade union organizations, RC-44 researchers are leading the way in conducting new empirical research, pioneering cutting-edge conceptual frameworks and forging new collaborations and networks to better understand the dilemmas facing workers and their collective organizations in the 21st century.

As we look to the next four years, we have much to look forward to. Our membership has grown from less than 80 registered members in 2006 to over 140 members from 25 countries in 2010. We have maintained significant representation in Australia, Canada, South Africa, the UK and the US and we have begun making important new

connections in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Much of this growth and dynamism can be attributed to the vision and hard work of our last Executive Council, including Rob Lambert, Dan Clawson and Robyn Rodriguez. Our new RC-44 Executive – Pun Ngai and Andreas Bieler (Vice Presidents), Peter Evans (Secretary), and Akira Suzuki (Treasurer) - is well-poised to continue expanding our boundaries and deepening our connections as we prepare for our next World Congress in Yokohama in July 2014.

With growth comes change and RC-44 is committed to improving our organizational processes to meet the needs of an expanding and diversifying membership. At the past congress, we converted our board structure to include regional representatives in all the major continents. We are in the process of converting our newsletter into a more dynamic website to improve RC-44 communication, as Andreas Bieler discusses in this newsletter. We are also committed to improving language and economic access, both at RC-44 gatherings and in our communication. We welcome any and all suggestions by members to continue building a more inclusive, democratic and vibrant international community of labour scholars and practitioners in RC-44.

Message from the Secretary

Peter Evans

Looking forward to Four years of Exciting Programs on the Worldwide Labour Movement

The next four years should see an energizing and productive series of programs for members of ISA Labor Movements section. The section Secretary is supposed to work on program and I look forward to working with the RC-44 Executive Committee and members around the world to build programs for conferences in 2011, 2012. Most important, of course, an outstanding World Congress program for Yokohama in 2014. We are still in the brainstorming phase, but the possibilities are very exciting.

A potential collaboration with the Global Labour University [see <http://www.global-labour-university.org/>] is the first item on our agenda. The Global Labour University [GLU] is holding a worldwide conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in September of 2011. The theme of the GLU Conference will be ““The Politics of Labour and Development,” a topic central to the interests of many RC-44 members. The local organizers of the GLU conference have expressed interest in involving RC-44 members. We are hoping that the GLU conference will serve as an occasion to bring together RC-44 members from Africa who were unable to participate in the Gothenburg meeting because of the high cost of getting to Sweden, as well as members from other regions. The call for papers for the conference will be out soon and we will make sure to get it up on the RC-44 Website as soon as it comes out.

We are also looking forward to the upcoming announcement of the 2012 ISA Forum. The ISA Executive Committee plans to make a decision on the location of the

Forum by January 15, 2011. We are hoping that it will end up being in Latin America, providing a regional complement to the GLU meeting in Africa and the 2014 World Congress in Asia, but wherever it is we will start building RC-44s program as soon as the announcement comes out next January.

Finally, we are looking for ideas for the Yokohama meetings in 2014. One of our first priorities is organizing an encounter that brings together members of RC-44 with labor activists to discuss how to best connect research and theorizing to practice. The very successful meeting with organizers from the Swedish Trade Union Confederation [LO] in Gothenburg [see Rob Lambert’s article this Newsletter] demonstrated just how fruitful such encounters can be. In Yokohama we are hoping to expand our engagement with activists, bringing together activists from across Asia for an all day gathering and dialog with RC-44 members. We are also struggling to find a way to resolve one of the perennial problems of ISA congresses: it is impossible to accommodate all the members who submit high quality papers and need to be on the program in order to get funding for their participation without overloading our sessions with papers to a degree that crowds out time for discussion and dialog. We need some innovative formatting ideas. One possibility is to combine regular presentational sessions with round table sessions. By grouping paper presentations in roundtables of 6-8 people working in the same area, we could get more people on the program and stimulate a number of simultaneous discussions. Additional ideas for the 2014 program are not just welcome but essential to a successful 2014 World Congress.

Over the next four years, ideas and suggestions from the membership will be the key to generating programs that fully reflect the wealth of knowledge and innovative

ideas that are the hallmark of RC-44's membership. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Message from the Vice-President
responsible for Communication**

Andreas Bieler

At the ISA conference in Gothenburg the new board decided to establish a new website as the focal point for the dissemination of information among RC44 members. I can confirm that the Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice (CSSGJ) (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cssgj>) at the University of Nottingham (UK) has agreed on hosting this new website. It will consist of a core, the pages of which will be directly maintained by the Centre administrator, and linked blogs and discussion forums, which are set up on independent and free websites. It is the task of the latter to ensure that there is new content available on a regular basis. The blogs and discussion forums will be maintained by individual RC44 members, which allows us to share the workload related to the website. These could include a blog on new publications, one for book reviews, another perhaps on current labour struggles. The exact contents of the website and linked-in blogs will be developed over the next couple of months also in consultation with the RC44 membership. It was also decided in Gothenburg to discontinue the regular newsletter. Instead, we intend to establish an option which would let people receive monthly digests of new materials posted in their E-mail in-boxes. This newsletter is therefore the last edition of its kind intended to provide a transition to the new website.

**Featured Article:
Resisting bilateral free trade and
investment agreements**

Aziz Choudry

“For the WTO resistance, it is easier to gather people across countries to mobilize together. But with FTAs, we are struggling on our own” (participant, Fighting FTAs international strategy workshop, July 2006, Bangkok).

Relatively little attention has been paid to movements against bilateral free trade and investment agreements (FTAs). Bilateral deals pose some specific challenges for educating and mobilizing transnational networks and alliances against capitalist globalization. Initially seen as a default for slow-moving World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, observers and activists came to see the bilateral free trade and investment strategy as being a preferred policy option, pushing governments into deeper and broader commitments to liberalization, and advancing geopolitical/foreign policy interests beyond narrow economic goals.

Notwithstanding the fact that some of the largest and most militant mobilizations against capitalist globalization in recent years have been anti-FTA protests, for example in South Korea, where street protests against the recently concluded FTA with the US numbered in the tens of thousands regularly and sometimes more in Seoul, in CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) countries (200,000 demonstrated in San Jose, Costa Rica on 26 February 2007 against CAFTA), mobilizing transnationally or internationally against these agreements has not attracted the same focus as anti-World Bank or WTO

demonstrations. The Korean fightback against the US-Korea FTA (still to be ratified by US Congress at the time of writing) has been a major multi-sectoral struggle, illustrating the importance of strong national movements in the context of cross/binational networks against a deal.

Given the challenges to organizing cross-nationally on bilateral free trade and investment agreements, a major concern among some opponents of FTAs has been the facilitation of the sharing of research, analysis and experience. In September 2004, a number of organizationsⁱ initiated a collaborative website to support peoples' struggles against bilateral free trade and investment agreements <http://www.bilaterals.org>. Behind the establishment of the website was a concern that in the celebration of the stalling of the WTO and FTAA negotiations by many NGOs and trade unions, there was little focus on the bilateral free trade and investment agreements actually being signed.

People's movements to stop FTAs are often isolated from each other, a direct reflection of the 'divide and conquer' strategy that bilateralism thrives on. A number of anti-FTA movements have made it a priority to break the isolation and link with others fighting such agreements in order to share analysis and learnings from each other's struggles. The Thai anti-FTA movement has been quite proactive in this respect, organizing several events, which have brought activists from different countries together to strategize on FTAs (Similar collaboration has also taken place in Latin America among movements fighting bilateral deals). FTA Watch, a Thai coalition, invited [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org), GRAIN and the Bangkok office of Médecins Sans Frontières to help co-organize a global strategy meeting of anti-FTA movements. Dubbed 'Fighting

FTAs', the three-day workshop was held at the end of July 2006 in Bangkok. It brought together around sixty social movement activists from twenty countries of Africa, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences in grassroots struggles against FTAs and to build international strategies and cooperation. In February 2008, GRAIN, [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org) and BIOTHAI (Biodiversity Action Thailand) produced a collaborative publication and launched a multimedia website called "Fighting FTAs: the growing resistance to bilateral free trade and investment agreements", which provides both a global overview of the spread of FTAs and maps the growing resistance and learnings from people's experiences of fighting FTAs.

A number of significant international movement networks are taking the threat of bilateral free trade and investment agreements seriously. For example, La Via Campesina has issued several statements explicitly opposing bilateral FTAs. A number of its member organizations, particularly in Central America, Korea and Africa are engaged in struggles against (mainly) US and EU-driven FTAs. For example, in a statement issued from a meeting in Dijon, France, in January 2008, Via Campesina members from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America stated that "all bilateral and bi-regional free-trade agreements...lead to the plundering of natural resources and only serve transnational companies at the expense of all the world's peoples and environment. These are not partnership agreements but 'Economic Plundering Agreements'. The organizations demanded "that governments not sign or withdraw from these agreements."

The comprehensiveness of many FTAs has engendered the building of common fronts of struggle at national levels in many countries. Yet among many advocacy NGO networks,

there remains a reticence to reconceptualize 'globalization' to include threats detached from the global institutions such as the WTO, World Bank and IMF, and to see dangers inherent in what appeared to be smaller deals. The question remains how to conceptualize capitalist globalization equally driven by a web of smaller agreements and to target this process in a concerted manner.

The extent to which academic interest will be piqued by these movements in a similar way to the extensive focus on anti-WTO activism remains to be seen.

¹ The initiators included the [Asia-Pacific Research Network](#), [GATT Watchdog](#) (New Zealand), [Global Justice Ecology Project](#) (USA), [GRAIN](#), [IBON Foundation](#) (Philippines) and [XminY Solidariteitsfonds](#) (Netherlands).

Featured Article: Reflections on the workshop 'Paradigms of Globalization & Trade Union Strategies'.

Rob Lambert

On Sunday the 11th of July, immediately preceding the ISA Congress, RC44 organized a one day workshop on the theme 'Globalization Paradigms & Labour Movement Struggles'. This was possible because of the strong team spirit which permeates RC44. Richard Hyman and Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick played a pivotal role in facilitating contact with LO Sweden who agreed to host the event. Erik Bengtsson of LO played a bridging role and was responsible for organizing the venue and encouraging LO officials and members to participate. Fifteen unionists from LO participated and there were approximately twenty RC44 members.

Eddie Webster presented an overview of the globalization debates and their implications

for labour movements. The neo-liberal, social democratic and developmental state models all attempt to draw labour movements into a *positive* engagement with restructuring in its myriad forms – corporate and work. Only the emerging southern paradigm attempts to construct active resistance potentials against the entire project – the triple 'freedoms' of trade, finance, and work restructuring.

In response, Andreas Bieler argued that the neo-liberal model forced national unions into a competitive warfare based on wage restraint, skills upgrades and the constant export of jobs. Richard Hyman and Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick contended that the social democratic model was based on attempts at macro-economic management, progressive taxation, the welfare state and an active labour market policy, which over time had become a common project of Social Democratic parties and the trade union movement. Peter Evans summarized the strategies of the developmental state. Rob Lambert argued that a new paradigm was emerging in the global south based on a critique of the wide ranging economic and environmental 'freedoms' underpinning global integration – freedom of global corporations, finance capital and the general view of nature as a toxic waste dump and an opportunity to plunder forests, oceans and resources without restraint.

These presentations led to an interesting and lively debate. The multiple crises of neo-liberal globalization demanded 'big ideas' of alternatives. What kind of movement could promote and struggle for such ideas? Why is it so difficult to advance new agendas?

Some LO participants argued that the alliance between powerful trade unions and the Swedish Social Democratic Party was still all powerful. Others contended this politics was now in a state of flux. The class

compromise was disappearing under pressure from free market globalization. Trade unions in Sweden were confronted by the expansion of informal work. Despite the high degree of collective bargaining, the informalization of the labour market was increasing. Ninety percent of Swedish workers are unionized, but the big question is, why do they join? What does it mean to be a union member? 'We have no mission for members'. 'We have failed to explain to members why unions are important'.

The meeting drew the following conclusions: 'Ideas have a material force'. The labour movement has lost the battle for ideas; following from this, there is a need for a more organic connections between labour studies academics and the labour movement; RC44 needs to promote multiple level connections with the various forms and levels of the international trade union movement; in terms of these connections we have to forge a partnership in 'developing a larger vision' of alternatives to neo-liberalism and the kind of movement which could more effectively struggle for such changes.

Overall, this was a worthwhile venture based on a stimulating exchange of ideas which also gave international delegates some insight into the Swedish labour situation. There is a word of caution however. Should a similar event be planned in the future, RC44 should determine the precise level of support from those attending the ISA Congress. There is a fair bit of work pulling such an event together and this is only worthwhile if there is strong support.

Global Labour Journal

Members of RC-44 (and others!) are invited to submit articles to our affiliated journal

Global Labour Issues (GLJ). <http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca/globalabout/>

GLJ is an open access online journal that follows a standard academic double blind peer review process. It is designed to provide a forum for a wide range of research into labour under the condition of globalization. GLJ has just finished publishing its first three issues. The initial issue was a special collection focused on the impacts of China's and India's integration into the global economy. Subsequent articles have examined topics as diverse as labour politics in New York City, the European Social Model, gender in an Indian export processing zone, and the politics around Seafaring. The journal has also hosted a vigorous debate and series of articles around labour and globalization featuring leading figures such as Michael Burawoy, Ronaldo Munck and Peter Evans. GLJ is quickly establishing itself as a major source of scholarship and debate on global labour issues.

Book Announcements

Bieler, Andreas and Ingemar Lindberg (eds.) (2010) *Global Restructuring, Labour and the Challenges for Transnational Solidarity*. London: Routledge.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415580830/>

Globalisation has put national labour movements under severe pressure due to the increasing transnationalisation of production and informalisation of the economy. Through a range of different case studies of concrete instances of successful as well as failed strategies, this book draws out

possibilities of, but also obstacles to, transnational labour solidarity in times of global restructuring. It covers inter-trade union co-operation as well as co-operation between trade unions and social movements within the formal and informal economy, and the public and private sector.

A flyer of the book offering a 20% discount can be found at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~ldzab/Tra nsnational%20Solidarity%20flyer.pdf>

Biyanwila, Janaka (2010) *The Labour movement in the global South: Trade Unions in Sri Lanka*. London Routledge.

Based on extensive original research, this book examines the challenges confronting trade unions in the global South, by focusing on trade union struggles in Sri Lanka under neo-liberal globalisation. It centres on movement politics of unions; explains union capacities to mobilise workers as a part of broad counter movement; and specifies worker struggles in Sri Lanka. The author identifies key dimensions of variation in the approaches taken by oppositional groupings, in particular unions, other labour organisations and the labour movement, and locates those variations in a larger theoretical context. Three case studies on trade unions in tea plantations, garment factories and among the nurses show how these theoretical dimensions operate in practice, and the consequences for the sort of opposition that is (and is not) created. The book contributes to the on-going debate on social movement unionism, and it also reveals their gaps in terms of addressing how class injustices are mediated through ethno-nationalist projects reproducing ethnic and gender hierarchies. It acknowledges the diversity of experiences and forms of resistance in the global South and critically engages with issues of gender, ethnicity and

labour internationalism, providing a useful contribution to studies on South Asian Politics as well as Labour and Development Studies.

Choudry, Aziz, Hanley, Jill, Jordan, Steve Shrage, Eric and Stiegman, Martha (2009). *Fightback: Workplace Justice for Immigrants* Black Point, N.S.: Fernwood.

<http://www.fernwoodpublishing.ca/Fight-Back-Aziz-Choudry-Jill-Hanley-Steve-Jordan-Eric-Shrage-Martha-Stiegman/>

Displacement of people, migration, immigration and the demand for labour are connected to the fundamental restructuring of capitalism and to the reduction of working class power through legislation to free the market from “state interference.” Consequently many immigrant and temporary foreign workers face relentless competition and little protection in the labour market. In Canada and globally, immigrant workers are not passive in the face of these conditions: they survive and fight back. This book documents their struggles and analyses them within the context of neoliberal globalization and the international and national labour markets. *Fight Back* grew out of collaboration between a group of university-affiliated researchers active in different social movements and community organizations in partnership with the Immigrant Workers Centre in Montreal (<http://iwc-cti.ca/>). The book shares with us the experiences of immigrant workers in a variety of workplaces in Canada, based on the underlying belief that the best kind of research that tells “how it really is” comes from the lived experience of people themselves.

Choudry , Aziz and Kapoor, Dip (Eds) (2010). *Learning from the Ground Up: Global Perspectives on Social Movements and Knowledge Production* New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

<http://us.macmillan.com/learningfromthegroundup>

This book contends that some of the most radical critiques and understandings about dominant ideologies and power structures, and visions of social change, have emerged from within social movements and social activist contexts. Containing fourteen chapters written by authors working closely with diverse social movements, NGOs, and popular mobilizations in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean, *Learning from the Ground Up* articulates and documents knowledge production, informal learning, and education work that takes place in everyday worlds of social activism. It highlights linkages between such knowledge and praxis/action, and illustrates tensions over whose knowledge and voices are heard. Of particular interest to RC44 members, several contributions by Robyn Rodriguez, Mario Novelli, Biju Mathew, and David Bleakney/Michael Morrill focus on knowledge, power and struggle in trade unions and im/migrant worker alliances.

Czarzasty, Jan (2010) *Stosunki pracy w handlu wielko powierzchniowym w Polsce [Labour relations in the large scale retail sector in Poland]*. Warszawa: Oficyna Wydawnicza Szkoły Głównej Handlowej w Warszawie [in Polish].

The book by Czarzasty offers unique overview of working conditions, labour relations and trade union representation in large hypermarket chains in Poland. Based on a rich set of historical and statistical data

sources, it demonstrates how the retail sector has changed during two decades of capitalist transformation. However, the main contribution of Czarzasty's book is the detailed and rich reconstruction of the ongoing process of unionisation of the retail sector in Poland. Based on focus group interviews the author explores both working conditions in hypermarkets and innovative strategies of trade union organising adopted by the 'Solidarity' trade union.

Gills, Barry K. (2010) 'Special issue on Globalization and Crisis', *Globalizations*, Vol.7/1-2. With contributions by Francois Houtart, Susan George, Saskia Sassen, Richard Falk and Walden Bello amongst others.

Copies of the special issue can be ordered at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/pdf/spisue/rglo-si-7-1.pdf>

Godfrey, Shane, Maree, Johann, du Toit, Darcy and Theron, Jan. 2010. *Collective Bargaining in South Africa: Past, Present and Future?* Claremont, Cape Town: Juta & Co.

<http://www.jutalaw.co.za/catalogue>

Since the 1980s centralised collective bargaining and trade union membership have been on the decline in much of the industrialised world. This has however not been the case in South Africa where centralised bargaining and trade union membership have increased. Centralised collective bargaining has remained at the core of wage negotiations and bargaining councils (formerly industrial councils) the durable institutions of collective bargaining.

Collective Bargaining in South Africa provides a thorough and critical analysis of the state of collective bargaining in South Africa. It

analyses the bargaining process and institutions from sociological, historical, legal and economic perspectives, thereby providing an inter-disciplinary perspective on the system. It shows that the unique history of South Africa has left trade unions and bargaining councils in a position of relative strength, but global labour market forces and trends are posing a serious threat to the effectiveness of collective bargaining. The book does not provide easy solutions to the challenges, but a number of alternative directions policy-makers could pursue to try to ensure the effectiveness of collective bargaining in future.

Hardy, Jane (2009) *Poland's New Capitalism*. New York: Pluto Press. New Polish edition: Hardy, Jane (2010) *Nowy kapitalizm po polsku*. Warszawa: Instytut Wydawniczy Książka i Prasa.

The book by Jane Hardy provides a systematic assessment of the impact of neoliberal policies on everyday life, working conditions and collective organisation of workers in Poland. Taking a political economy perspective, it analyses the process of changes in the country involving the inflow of transnational corporations, marketisation of the public services and expansion of neoliberal hegemonic discourses. Arguably Hardy's main contribution relies on challenging the dominant view on Polish organised labour as the disoriented victims of new capitalist system whose false consciousness brings them close to the populism and nationalism. Exploring the resistance of women workers in the public sector and in the new multinational companies, she demonstrates how the most vulnerable sections of labour force have organised and resisted disempowering working conditions. For this reason, Hardy's book, published in English in 2009 by Pluto Pres and in Polish in 2010

by the Książka i Prasa Publishing House, is likely to become one of the core texts not only for those interested in the economic and political history of the region, but also for labour scholars exploring new forms of resistance and trade union organisation in the world capitalist system.

Lindell, Ilda (ed.) 2010, *Africa's Informal Workers: Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. Zed Books and The Nordic Africa Institute, London/Uppsala.

<http://www.zedbooks.co.uk/book.asp?bookdetail=4369>

Deepening processes of informalization and casualization of work are changing urban livelihood opportunities and conditions in Africa and beyond. The book addresses the growing trend of collective organizing, through which workers in the informal economy defend their interests. The emerging picture is that of a highly diverse landscape of organized actors, reflecting the great diversity of interests in the informal economy. The collection also explores concrete initiatives by trade unions to organize workers in the informal economy. The transnational dimensions of collective organizing by informal workers are examined. The book gathers cases from nine countries and cities across Sub-Saharan Africa, and from sectors ranging from urban informal vending and service delivery, to informal manufacturing, casual port work and cross-border trade.

Lindell, Ilda (2010) (guest ed.) *Between Exit and Voice: Informality and the Spaces of Popular Agency*, Special Issue of *African Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 11, Nos. 2/3.

<http://nai.divaportal.org/smash/record.jsf?searchId=1&pid=diva2:320429>

Scipes, Kim (2010) *AFL-CIO's Secret War against Developing Country Workers: Solidarity or Sabotage?* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Conference Announcements

The 2011 Industrial Relations in Europe Conference is scheduled for 1-2 September in Barcelona. The web site is under construction at <http://jornades.uab.cat/irec2011/>

The Global Labour University (GLU) annual conference, entitled 'Politics of Labour and Development' will be held from September 28-30, 2011, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. For more details, please contact michelle.williams@wits.ac.za or visit the GLU website www.global-labour-university.org

Robyn Rodriguez (Rutgers University) and Belinda Lum (University of San Diego) are soliciting papers for a joint session with the American Sociological Association's Section on Labour and Labour movements and the Section on Race, Class and Gender on the topic, "Immigration, Guest Workers, Arizona, and Beyond" (the description follows). Those interested should submit their papers through the ASA <http://www.asanet.org/>. The official call for

papers for the annual ASA meeting will be issued on Oct. 29, 2010.

As debate about documented and undocumented immigration continues to rage in the wake of the passage of SB1070 in Arizona and similar laws in twenty-two other states, it is increasingly important to examine analyze proposed immigration policies and 'reform.' For example, amongst the policies being proposed is a "guest worker" program that would allow low-wage, unskilled migrants to enter the United States legally, albeit without the possibility of permanent residence or citizenship. Indeed, guest worker programs are increasingly being touted by multilateral institutions like the United Nations and governments as a "win-win-win" strategy: a "win" for labour-receiving states which can avail of temporary and inexpensive labour in key industries; a "win" for labour-sending states which can accrue foreign exchange for developmental purposes through migrants' remittances; and a "win" for migrant workers themselves who are given employment opportunities abroad. Missing from discussions is an analysis based on race class, and gender. This joint session, will critique the frameworks of these programs and seek to examine alternative constructions of immigration reform (e.g. the Dream Act) that may offer migrants and their children a pathway to citizenship.

RC44 BOARD

President

Jennifer Jihye Chun, University of British Columbia, Canada jjchun@interchange.ubc.ca

North America Regional Representative
Aziz Choudry, McGill University, Canada
aziz.choudry@mcgill.ca

Vice-Presidents

Andreas Bieler, University of Nottingham, UK
Andreas.Bieler@nottingham.ac.uk

At-large board members
Rina Agarwala, Johns Hopkins University
agarwala@jhu.edu

Pun Ngai, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China
punngai@gmail.com

Richard Hyman, Richard Hyman, London School of Economics/UK
r.hyman@lse.ac.uk

Secretary

Peter Evans, University of California, Berkeley, USA
pevans@berkeley.edu

Hwa-Jen Liu, National Taiwan University
hjliu@ntu.edu.tw

Treasurer

Akira Suzuki, Ohara Institute for Social Research, Hosei University, Japan
insmove@hosei.ac.jp

Rachel Sherman, The New School, USA,
shermanr@newschool.edu

Board Members

Africa Regional Representative
Bridget Kenny, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
Bridget.Kenny@wits.ac.za

Ex-officio
Rob Lambert, University of Western Australia
rlambert@biz.uwa.edu.au

Asia Regional Representative
Byoung-hoon Lee, Chung-Ang University, Korea
bhlee@cau.ac.kr

Australia-New Zealand Regional Representative
David Peetz, Griffith University, Australia
d.peatz@griffith.edu.au

Europe (Eastern) Regional Representative
Adam Mrozowicki, University of Wroclaw, Poland
mrozowicki@gmail.com

Europe (Europe) Regional Representative
Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick, Birkbeck, University of London/UK
r.gumbrell-mccormick@bbk.ac.uk

Latin America Regional Representative
Ruy Braga, University of São Paulo, Brazil
ruy.braga@uol.com.br

Join the ISA 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 in industrial relations, in the political arena and in connection with other social movements and organizations addressing work and labour issues. Membership is open to any person engaged in research or directly involved in a labour movement organization.

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, and Oceania.
- Receive monthly email digests of new RC44 website materials posted featuring international articles on labour, book reviews and commentaries, debates on cutting -edge research, profiles of research units, conference announcements, calls for paper and more.
- Receive a directory of active RC-44 members
- Participate in RC44 meetings, including the next ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan, in 13-19 July 2014.

For more information on RC44 membership only, please contact
Andreas.Bieler@nottingham.ac.uk _____

Join the ISA & RC44

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

Benefits of joining the ISA

- Reduced registration fees at the **ISA World Congress**
- Receive *International Sociology* (the official quarterly journal of the ISA)
- Receive *the ISA Bulletin* (the ISA newsletter) and the *Directory of Members*
- Discounted subscription to ISA journal, *Current Sociology*
- Over **60 years of age** qualifies for life membership of the ISA
- Receive *isagram*, the ISA electronic newsletter containing