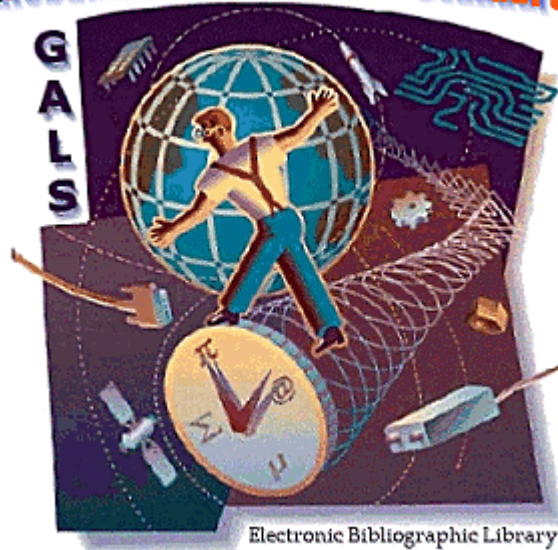


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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## Labor Rights in General

**Drummonds, Henry H., "Transnational Small and Emerging Business in a World of Mikes and Microsofts," *Journal of Small and Emerging Business Law* v. 4 (2000) p. 249**

### **Abstract:**

This Article considers the nature and effects of economic globalization against the backdrop of the controversial December 1999 World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle, Washington and the April 2000 meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Parts II and III discuss the causes and effects of labor market globalization and the

opportunities and challenges globalization presents for small and emerging businesses, which benefit from entrepreneurial adaptability, but which face increased competition. Parts IV and V survey the normative debate about globalization and note that global labor markets expose and expand concerns for establishing core labor standards to protect employees from abuse and denial of basic rights. Part VI considers the effects of globalization on U.S labor and employment law. Part VII argues that although proposed mechanisms for establishing core labor standards must involve governmental oversight, private ordering will play the largest role in fixing the terms and conditions of employment in the increasingly global labor markets. Part VIII offers a brief conclusion.

**Subjects:** [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#), [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WESTLAW](#) ||

**Ontiveros, Maria L., "Work in the 21st Century - Creating the Social Architecture", *University of San Francisco Law Review* v. 37 no3 (Spring 2003) p. 511-19**

**Abstract:**

This Article summarizes and builds upon the University of San Francisco Law Review's spring 2003 symposium on creating a social architecture for work in the twenty-first century. Symposium participants discussed the contemporary labor movement in the contexts of the global marketplace, the American labor movement, the relationship between individual employees and employers, and American law schools. Part I discusses the global market place and argues that the international financial structure of multinational corporations must be balanced by a social architecture facilitated by the rule of law to ensure global worker protection. Part II focuses on the American labor movement and discusses two approaches to creating a social architecture that, while different, share similar core values, such as creating dignity for individual workers and recognizing that the work of a human being is not a commodity. Part III discusses the relationship between individual employees and employers and notes the difficulties that non-union employees face in enforcing their workplace rights, highlighting the need for an appropriate forum in which workers can vindicate their rights. Part IV discusses the role of American law schools in the contemporary labor movement, noting a disjuncture between a movement in law schools away from a focus on labor law, even as labor law remains an important focal point for many practicing attorneys.

**Subjects:** [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WESTLAW](#) ||

## Women's Rights

**Russell-Brown, Sherrie, "Labor Rights as Human Rights: The Situation of Women Workers in Jamaicas Export Free Zones", *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law* v. 24 no1 (2003)**

**Abstract:**

Russell-Brown presents a case study of Jamaica's export free zones (EFZs) that underscores the gap between the implementation and enforcement of labor regulations and the myriad of legal institutions that purport to protect labor rights. In 1997, there were 13,900 workers in these zones, of whom 95 percent were women. Unlike manufacturing in other parts of Jamaica, the export free zones are entirely non-union. Russell-Brown argues that one explanation for the lack of unions in the EFZs stems from the mismatch between a female workforce and male-dominated unions. Russell-Brown also points out that Jamaican trade unions have long been political allies of the elite so that the lack of organizing and labor regulation in the EFZs may be a result of that collusion. Russell-Brown argues that the suspension of worker rights in the EFZs violates Jamaican laws, international agreements, and U.S. trade regulations. Despite all of these legal regulations, no enforcement mechanisms have yet been mobilized to remedy the situation.

**Subjects:** [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Export Processing Zones](#), [Women's Rights](#)

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## Books of Interest

**Compa, Lance & Lyle, Fay. *Justice For All: A Guide to Worker Rights in the Global Economy* (Washington, D.C., American Center for International Labor Solidarity/AFL-CIO, 2003)**

**Abstract:**

Justice for All is a comprehensive guide to international worker rights advocacy. Authors Lance Compa of Cornell University and Fay Lyle of the AFL-CIOs Solidarity Center provide historical overviews and contemporary case studies of national, regional and global mechanisms for advancing labor rights and labor standards, and where possible enforcing them. They cover labor rights clauses in U.S. trade laws, worker rights in regional trade agreements like those of NAFTA, Mercosur, and the European Union, and global bodies including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the International Labor Organization. Compa and Lyle also provide thorough reviews of corporate codes of conduct and of international labor solidarity campaigns.

**Subjects:** [Labor Rights in General](#)

**Sarfati, Hedva & Bonoli, Giuliano. *Labor Market and Social Protection reforms in International Perspective: Parallel or Converging Tracks?* (Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 2002)**

**Abstract:**

This edited volume is a collection of International Social Security Administration (ISSA) case studies that explores the potential for institutional adaptation in changing socioeconomic circumstances. The case studies are from in a variety of European countries, the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand. They describe restructuring of social protection and labor market reforms and assesses the outcomes of these cases. The changing circumstances highlighted by the authors include the increase in service sector employment and the subsequent changes in the rate and character of productivity gains. The liberalization of social and labor regulation and the mobility of both capital and production are also identified as key factors motivating institutional adaptation. Finally the authors point to the aging of the population and a pending crisis in social welfare policy.

**Subjects:** [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [European Union](#)

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## Links to Related Projects

**ETUI Labourline:** <http://www.labourline.org/Etui>

ETUI Labourline is a database of European labor information resources covering European, international and comparative aspects of industrial relations and health and safety issues, developed by the Documentation Centres of the European Trade Union Institute and the European Trade Union Institute for Health and Safety (Brussels). The consolidated bibliographic database contains more than 20,000 references to documents focusing on industrial relations, and more than 15,000 references to documents on health and safety issues.

**LabourWeb:** <http://www.lex.unict.it/eurolabor/en/>

The Labour Web is a comprehensive documentation center for information about European labor law, social law, industrial relations and the welfare state. It contains up-to-date versions of European Union law, directives, pending directives, EU news, press releases, economic statistics and decisions of the European Court of Justice. It also contains a Working Papers series and subject matter reports (dossiers) on issues concerning European integration. The site also provides links to other websites that contain working papers, statistical reports, and other information about social, economic and industrial relations affairs in the European context. It is run by the Massimo D'Antona Centre for the Study of European Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Catania.

**Labor and Global Change Database:** <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lagn/>

The Labor and Global Change Database provides bibliographies, citation information and (where available) web links to the full text of research exploring connections between labor and globalization. The database aims to provide researchers with an easy means to make the results of their work widely available to other scholars and the interested public. The database is run by and continually updated by the Labor and Global Change Program of the University of Michigan.

**Trade Unions and Labor Relations Database:** <http://www.polwiss.fu-berlin.de/tu/english/>

The database, produced by the Institute of Labor Relations of the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie University of Berlin, contains almost 7,000 citations of books, articles, working papers, brochures, proceedings etc. The bulk of the citations address aspects of labor relations in Germany, but there is a substantial body of literature in the database covering the EU and Eastern Europe.

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