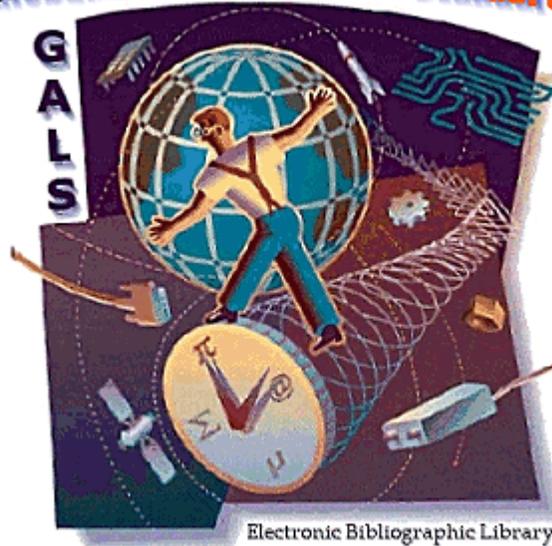


Globalization and Labor Standards



GALS Newsletter

May, 2007

Volume 6, No. 5

Katherine V.W. Stone – Editor and Project Director

Managing Editor:
Brendan Smith

Student Contributors:
Angela Jamison
Scott Miller

Tech Advisor:
Sasha Skenderija

The Globalization and Labor Standards Bibliographic Library is sponsored by
UCLA School of Law and the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations

The complete GALS Library is available at <http://www.laborstandards.org>.
New subscribers can use gals-request@lists.ucla.edu to be placed on the GALS list-serve. Information about how to sign up for this free service is [available below](#).

The Globalization and Labor Standards Project has initiated a Working Papers Series. GALS Working Papers can be found in PDF format at www.laborstandards.org. They are listed separately as well as cross-referenced and integrated into the GALS library. The library contains links to the full text of the Working Paper. GALS Working Papers are also listed in the newsletter.

Health and Safety

James, Phil & Johnstone, Richard & Quinlan, Michael & Walters, David, "Regulating Supply Chains to Improve Health and Safety ", *Industrial Law Journal* v. 36 (2007) p. 163

Abstract:

This article explores some of the health and safety implications of "externalization," meaning the shift of production from large, integrated multi-department firms to a series of typically smaller, undercapitalized suppliers and subcontractors which many observers have identified as a prominent feature of the new, "boundaryless" workplace. The authors suggest that there are both sound theoretical and empirical reasons for concluding that outsourcing and subcontracting supply chains reduces communication and seriously complicates overall risk management assessments, results in lower levels of supervision and training on health and safety issues, undercuts unions and other forms of collective workplace "voice" which typically play a crucial role in monitoring health and safety compliance, and limits resources available for investment in health and safety measures. They cite studies from various European Union countries indicating that the fatal and major injury rates in small firms are roughly double those of large and medium-sized firms. Studies of efforts to regulate supply chains in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia suggest that such laws can have positive effect, but that they are often too limited in scope or underutilized. The authors advocate a targeted approach focusing specifically on those industries and sectors relying on "externalized" production and the increased use of temporary employment in hazardous working conditions. In their view, the "asymmetrical power relationships" between smaller enterprises and the larger organizations at the top of the supply chain make the latter well-suited for exerting positive influence and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations throughout the supply chain through their ability to terminate or withhold contracts.

Subjects: [European Union](#), [Health and Safety](#), [Industry-Specific Case Studies](#), [Outsourcing](#)

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

Trade Conditionality

Lieberwitz, Risa L., "Linking Trade and Labor Standards: Prioritizing the Right of Association", *Cornell International Law Journal* v. 39 (2006) p. 64

Abstract:

Prompted by recent debates over linking bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements with internationally recognized labor standards, the author argues that proponents of such linkage have erred in placing their focus on mandating substantive workplace rights in trade agreements. The author argues that the most important demand to raise is the "procedural" right of full freedom of association for workers affected by the global expansion of capital and international trade agreements. She argues that the exclusive focus on substantive rights is doomed to failure because it underestimates "the power of transnational corporations to continue their global expansion and search for untapped cheap labor." An emphasis on freedom of association instead would allow greater flexibility for workers to confront localized conditions and pursue their own demands for substantive workplace rights through collective bargaining. By assisting workers in setting and pursuing their own priorities for improved labor standards, the author argues that a regime protecting freedom of association would encourage economic growth and development by preserving the competitive advantage of countries of the global South within the global

division of labor. Additionally, the localized control of workers over their own collective bargaining demands would, the author argues, solve many of the on-site monitoring and enforcement problems that have been identified by other efforts to link trade and labor standards. Even where freedom of association is unlikely to be adequately enforced in the short term, the author argues that this approach nonetheless provides a more promising alternative because it invests power in those most affected by globalization, and begins the long-term process of building cross-border alliances among unions and workers, rather than perpetuating the notion that workers' interests are necessarily tied to improving the competitiveness of "their" employer, "their" sector, or "their" country, at the expense of workers elsewhere.

Subjects: [Collective Bargaining](#), [FTA](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#), [Trade Agreements](#), [Trade Conditionality](#)

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

Links to Related Projects

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Informal Economy Resource Database:
<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/infoecon/iebrowse.home>

The Informal Economy Resource Database contains a myriad of ILO activities, research or tools directly or indirectly related to the informal economy and decent work. This source is a "living" and dynamic inventory of information on labour issues relating to the informal economy, such as access to finance, data and statistics, employment, gender equality, policy, rights, social protection and working conditions. It is a valuable tool for anyone undertaking research or working on labour issues and the informal economy.

Asian Law Center: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alc/bibliography/browse.asp?s=45>

The Asian Law Centre, an initiative of the University of Melbourne Law School, devoted to the development of understanding of Asian law, offers an extensive bibliography of Asian labor law articles and reports.

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/celrl/>

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law is a research and teaching center devoted to the development of an understanding of labor law at the University of Melbourne. The Center's website describes the activities of the Center and contains links to several databases that are of interest to labor law scholars and practitioners. For example, the Center's Work Relations Law Project contains extensive information about Australian labor law that can be accessed directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/industrial/>.

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.

Globalization Bulletin: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dbensman/bulletin.html>

The Globalization Bulletin is a weekly e-newsletter providing linked access to the latest articles, research, and web resources on a range of global labor issues—ranging from union organizing and labor markets to immigrations and trade agreements. The Bulletin is produced by the Globalization Task Force of the New Jersey Division of the United Nations Association-USA and the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. To subscribe, email David Bensman at dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu.

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.

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.

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies:

<http://www.csmb.unimo.it>

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, functions as policy resource center on comparative labor issues. Besides publishing books and law journals, the Center provides a clearinghouse of international law journals, including the International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations (<http://www.csmb.unimo.it/journal.html>). Currently only in Italian, the Center's website will soon offer an English version.

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.

GALS Information

You can view the entire **GALS** bibliography and database at <http://www.laborstandards.org>.

If you have colleagues who may be interested in this service, send them the following instructions on how to subscribe:

To subscribe to the **GALS Newsletter** send the following email to gals-request@lists.ucla.edu

Subject: *[leave blank]*
First line of the message: **SUBSCRIBE**

If you would like to unsubscribe to the **GALS Newsletter**, please email gals-request@lists.ucla.edu with the following text:

Subject *[leave blank]*
First line of the message: **UNSUBSCRIBE**

For any problems or questions, please email to Brendan Smith, at GALS@laborstandards.org.

The **GALS Bibliographic Library** is provided by the [UCLA School of Law](#) and the **UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations**.

Project Director:

[Katherine V.W. Stone](#)
UCLA School of Law