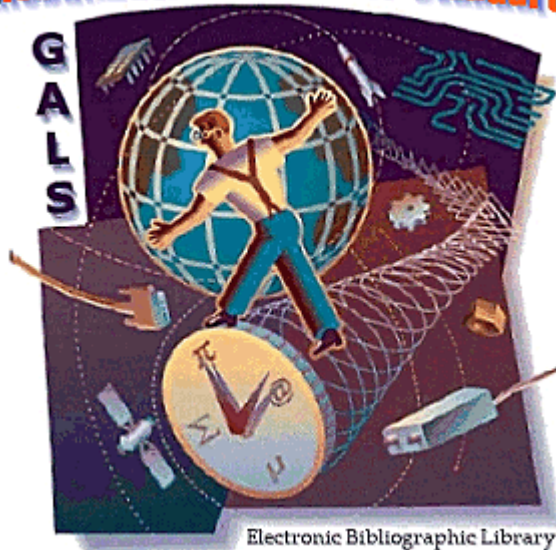


Globalization and Labor Standards



GALS Newsletter

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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.

Codes of Conduct

Jaffe, Natasha Rossell & Weiss, Jordan D., "The Self-Regulating Corporation: How Corporate Codes Can Save Our Children", *Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law* v. 11 (2006) p. 893-935

Abstract:

This note argues that global economic deregulation and the growth of multi-national corporations (MNCs) are linked to the employment of child labor. The authors advocate for a practical solution to the problem of child labor through the use of corporate codes of conduct. Parts I and II summarize the history of child labor and MNCs. Part III discusses several relatively ineffective mechanisms that have been used to regulate child labor, such as NGOs and consumer activism. Parts IV and V argue for the potential success of corporate self-regulation through codes. Codes are not limited by international law because they derive their power from consumers: codes encourage MNCs to compete for publicity instead of for cheaper production sources. The authors conclude that while codes may be an imperfect solution to child labor abuses, they can be effective because they change the corporate cost-benefit analysis for the use of child labor.

Subjects: [Child Labor](#), [Codes of Conduct](#)

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

CAFTA

Glass-Hess, Laura, "Ready or Not, Here Comes DR-CAFTA: Comparing the Right of Association in Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador", *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* v. 35 (Winter 2007) p. 333

Abstract:

This Note assesses the feasibility of Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement's (DR-CAFTA) mirroring of NAFTA's labor regulations as they were embodied in the "enforce-your-own-laws" provisions of the NAALC side-agreement. The author compares the existing right of association laws and enforcement practices of Guatemala and El Salvador with those of Mexico. She concludes that the current statutory structures and rule-of-law situations in Central America are even weaker than those in Mexico. She argues that reliance on soft labor enforcement provisions and strong economic pressures have not improved Mexico's labor rights situation, and hence will harm El Salvador and Guatemala's weaker labor climates. Because of this difference, DR-CAFTA needs a more "hands-on" agreement. She concludes by stating that "without strong enforcement of labor provisions, the DR-CAFTA will only hasten the 'race to the bottom' in Latin America, with disastrous results for Central American workers."

Subjects: [CAFTA](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [FTA](#), [NAFTA/GATT](#), [Trade Agreements](#), [Trade Conditionality](#)

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Trade Conditionality

Barry, Christian & Reddy, Sanjay G., "Global Justice and International Economic Arrangements: International Trade and Labor Standards: A Proposal for Linkage", *Cornell International Law Journal* v. 39 (Fall 2006) p. 545-637

Abstract:

The authors argue for making rights to trade conditional upon promotion of labor standards. They detail the five standard objections to such "linkage"-that it is: inconsequential, an inferior means of improving labor standards, creates an unfair distribution of burdens, is politically imperialistic, and is unfeasible. Their "constructive procedure" identifies various linkage proposals that avoid these objections. To demonstrate the feasibility of linkage, the authors conclude with a detailed example of how a linkage system based on WTO institutions and overseen by the ILO would work in practice. Two useful appendices use United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) industrial statistics to chart the likely effects of improvement in labor standards on labor costs.

Subjects: [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#), [Labor Rights as Human Rights](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#), [Trade Agreements](#), [Trade Conditionality](#), [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)

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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/celr/>

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.

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