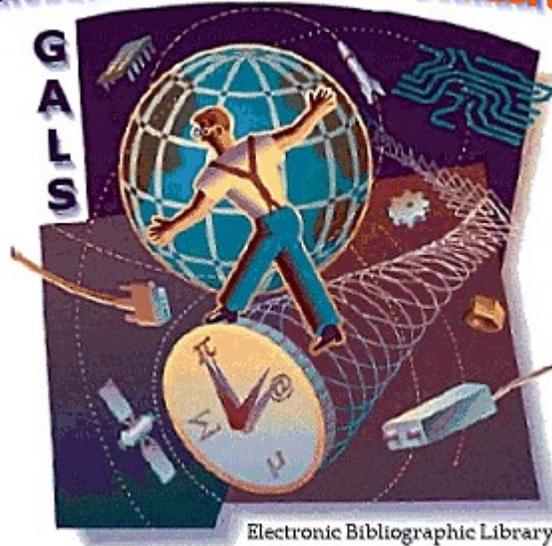


Globalization and Labor Standards



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Child Labor

Jonassen, Frederick B., "A Baby-step to Global Labor Reform: Corporate Codes of Conduct and the Child", *Minnesota Journal of International Law* v. 17 (2008) p. 7-52

Abstract:

This article details the apparent and potential success of corporate codes of conduct to address the problem of exploitative child labor where national and international actors have largely failed. It points to various reasons, including international competition for markets, the degree of "sovereignty" over children which parents generally refuse to surrender to states or other international bodies, and the difficulty of monitoring and enforcing traditional laws and regulations as contributing to the continuation

and growth of child labor throughout global supply chains. The author suggests that the emergence of corporate codes of conduct in recent decades, brought on largely in response to journalistic and other negative media attention given to prominent corporations or celebrities for tolerating or encouraging exploitative labor conditions, bypasses the traditional players in international relations and human rights and may form the basis for an emergent "lex humanitiana" out of the customary law of commercial contracts and mercantile practices.

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

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

Immigration

Xinying Chi, "Challenging Managed Temporary Labor Migration As A Model For Rights And Development For Labor-Sending Countries", *New York University Journal of International Law and Politics* v. 40 (Winter 2008) p. 497-527

Abstract:

This article begins with the fact that half of the world's immigrant population is made up of temporary migrant workers. The author analyzes the approach of NGO's and sending countries to managing this temporary migration. Using the Philippines as an example, the article argues shows that the existing institutional infrastructure of sending countries operates and argues that it is insufficient to achieve the goals of promoting economic development and protecting the rights are migrants. The author also argues that the current migration paradigm does not lead to economic development but rather that economic reliance on migration functions to undermine the rights of migrants. The author concludes that in order to achieve the two goals of sending country economic development and protection of migrant workers' rights it is necessary to re-conceptualize the paradigm of migrant labor - and that to doing to do so successfully requires acknowledging that the current treatment of migrants is the result of value-laden political choices.

Subjects: [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Immigration](#), [Undocumented Workers](#)

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

International Framework Agreements

Herrnstadt, Owen E., "Are International Framework Agreements a Path to Corporate Responsibility?", *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business and Employment Law* v. 10 (2007) p. 187-238

Abstract:

In response to unilaterally declared corporate codes of conduct, in the last decade several global union federations have negotiated international framework agreements (IFAs) which attempt to ensure compliance with internationally recognized labor standards throughout a multinational employer's operations. Based on an examination of IFAs negotiated by the Building and Woodworkers International and the International Metalworkers Federation, this article evaluates the effectiveness of IFAs in terms of coverage, content, implementation and enforcement. In terms of coverage, the author argues that IFAs must cover the entire enterprise, including subsidiaries, suppliers and joint ventures. He finds that some

IFAs have strong language regarding coverage, some include only permissive or ambiguous phrases, such as "encouraging" or "urging" recognition of labor standards, and still other lack such language altogether. In terms of content, the author finds that most IFAs contain a statement of principles that includes prohibitions on forced labor, child labor and workplace discrimination and the rights of workers to equal pay, minimum health and safety standards, freedom of association and collective bargaining. To be effective, however, the author argues that an IFA must comprehensively and expressly incorporate the specific standards embodied in International Labor Organization Conventions and their interpretive documents in order to ensure that signatory employers are held to recognized international standards. In terms of implementation, the author argues that IFAs must be written in understandable language and distributed to all employees to ensure that key terms, such as "freedom of association" are understood in conformity with international standards. And in terms of enforcement, the author advocates random and unannounced inspection by independent observers. The author concludes that none of the existing IFAs meet all of these criteria.

Subjects: [Codes of Conduct](#), [Corporate Accountability](#), [International Framework Agreements](#)

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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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