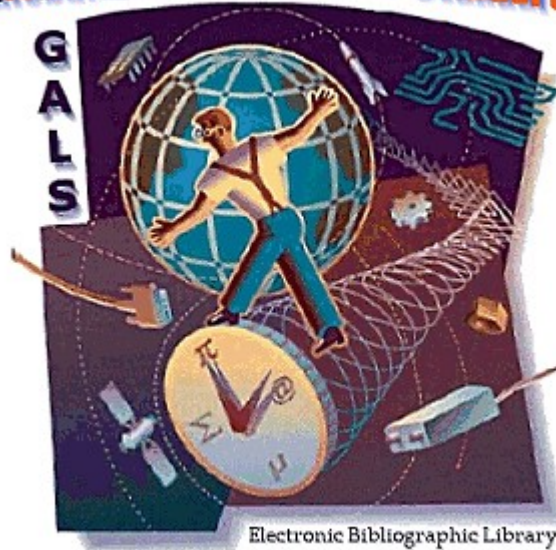


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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### Country-Specific Case Studies

Riley, Joellen & Sheldon, Peter, "Symposium on Remaking Industrial Relations in Australia", *Economic and Labour Relations Review* v. 18 no1 (2008)

#### Abstract:

In this Symposium, leading experts in Australian labor law present their proposals for labor law reform. Under the Liberal-Nationalist Coalition Government of John Howard, from 1995 - 2007, Australia's century-old labor law regulatory system was dismantled and an extreme deregulatory and antiunion regulatory system was put in place. In November, 2007, the Labour party defeated the Howard

government, largely as a result of dissatisfaction with its labor legislation. Riley and Sheldon asked four prominent labor law academics -- Keith Hancock, John Niland, Ron McCallum, and Margeret Gardner -- each of whom had authored a major assessment of labor law reforms in the past, to evaluate the Howard era reforms and advise the new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, about what kinds of labor law reforms he should enact. Riley & Sheldon also asked a number of other labor law experts to discuss specific issues of labor law reform, including labor standards (Jill Murray), independent contractors (Andrew Stewart), trade unions (Shae McCrystal), women and work (Marian Baird), unfair dismissal (Murray Wilcox), and others.

**Subjects:** [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Flexibilization](#), [Labor Mobility](#)

**Tiraboschi, Michele, "The Reform of the Italian Labor Market over the Past Ten Years: A Process of Liberalization?", *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* v. 29 no4 (Summer 2008) p. 427-453**

**Abstract:**

Tiraboschi seeks to counter the contention of critics, including Italian trade unionists, that the legislative reforms of the past decade were informed by a philosophy of liberalization. He argues that a neoliberal ideology-one based on self-regulation of the market that seeks to "destructure" labor law-formed neither the intentions nor effects of the reform process. Instead, Tiraboschi asserts, Italy's recent reforms are a continuation of past processes responding to an economy characterized by the expansion of an underground, informal economy, innovation due to globalization and internationalization of markets, and the presence of large numbers of women and young people in the in the workforce who require more workplace flexibility. Tiraboschi analyzes reform provisions regarding Italy's constitutional right to work, the regulation of outsourcing, and fixed-term contracts to show that the reforms are consistent with existing case law, consonant with collective bargaining practices and protective labor law, and finally, correspond with the current realities of the Italian labor market, particularly employers' use of informal labor. In sum, Tiraboschi notes that while it may be too early to conclusively judge outcomes, little evidence has emerged to justify critics' prediction the reforms would lead to destructuring of labor law.

**Subjects:** [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Flexibilization](#), [Outsourcing](#), [Workplace Discrimination](#)

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

## Workplace Discrimination

**Reichman, Daniel, "Justice at a Price: Regulation and Alienation in the Global Economy", *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* v. 31 (2008) p. 102-117**

**Abstract:**

This article compares and contrasts three aspects of the international coffee trade – violence by landless Honduran families against the foreign and absentee owner of a coffee farm, fair trade consumerism in the global North, and the now defunct system of wage and price controls of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) that have collapsed under increasingly globalized market condition since 1989 – to suggest that structural changes in the relationship between states brought on by globalization have led citizens to attempt to impose collective principles on economic behavior through new, albeit partial and alienated, forms of regulation outside the boundaries of the nation-state. The author sees the popular violence in Honduras and the increasing preoccupation with "fair trade" coffee in the North as symptoms of the demise of the ICA; in the absence of regulation by laws, treaties and states, people resort to localized and highly individualized behaviors to comprehend their role as moral actors within the

impersonal global market. Despite their emphasis on moral affirmation and personal responsibility, the author sees these forms of political subjectivity as inadequate to the task of regulating the global economy in the interest of social solidarity.

**Subjects:** [Case Studies](#), [Corporate Accountability](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Industry-Specific Case Studies](#), [NAFTA/GATT](#), [Trade Agreements](#), [Trade Conditionality](#)

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

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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.

**International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conditions of Work and Employment Laws**

<http://www.ilo.org/travdatabase>

The Program maintains a Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws, which provides information on laws from around the world. The database covers measures on minimum wages, working hours and holidays, and maternity protection and provides information on around 130 countries from all regions.

**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/ceclr/>

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](mailto: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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*Project Director:*

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