

# GALS Newsletter

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## Country-Specific Case Studies

**Budd, John W., "Fairness at Work, and Maybe Efficiency but not Voice: An Evaluation of the Arthurs' Commission Report", *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* v. 29 no4 (2008) p. 477-489**

### **Abstract:**

This article seeks to discern the analytical framework of the Arthurs' Report, which studies and critiques employment law covering Canadian Federal employees. After explaining several possible frameworks – egoist, unitarist, pluralist and critical – the author concludes that Arthurs falls into the pluralist school of thought. Pluralist policies embrace significant government regulation to equalize bargaining power between employees and employers. The author argues that the Arthurs' report would be stronger if it explicitly recognized its analytical approach so that policy makers might move beyond specific proposals and more easily debate the underlying assumptions. The author then suggests that the Arthurs' Report would benefit from emphasizing not only efficiency and equity in the workplace, but also employee voice. This article concludes by applauding the overall effort of the Arthurs' Report, despite current obstacles to its implementation.

**Subjects:** [Collective Bargaining](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#)

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

**Jacoby, Sanford M., "Finance and Labor: Perspectives on Risk, Inequality, and Democracy", *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* v. 30 (Fall 2008) p. 17-65**

### **Abstract:**

Jacoby's article discusses the politics of finance and the response of unions in the United States, the United Kingdom, the "Eurozone," and Japan since 1980. He demonstrates correlations between growth and wealth inequality, wage volatility, and job loss globally. Jacoby argues the origins of the finance

hegemony are found in 1960s and '70s free-market ideology that emerged in response the capital controls of the Bretton Woods-era and snowballed under Reagan and Clinton. Finance's acolytes have most successfully implemented their agenda in the U.S. and U.K., where unions have less influence and shareholders have made maximizing shareholder value the "corporation's sole objective function." Jacoby then focuses on the history of the "double movement" in the U.S., from the Gilded Age to present efforts by unions to leverage pension fund assets through corporate governance strategies furthering labor's goals. Jacoby debunks arguments that financial markets are divorced from politics or that free markets democratize access to wealth. He argues instead that "producerist" economies where owners, executives, and workers cooperate have grown as fast since 1980 while safeguarding non-elites from market risk through social insurance.

**Subjects:** [Corporate Governance](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [International Monetary Fund](#), [World Bank](#)

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## Forced Labor

**Richelson, Sarah, "Trafficking and Trade: How Regional Trade Agreements Can Combat the Trafficking of Persons in Brazil", *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law* v. 25 (Fall 2008) p. 857-898**

**Abstract:**

Richelson provides an overview of human trafficking, a "rapidly expanding" crime that generates over nine billion dollars in global annual revenue. Brazil is the largest exporter of women and children, often trafficked into sex work worldwide, and also a destination country for trafficked workers. Richelson discusses Brazil's efforts to combat trafficking in the "triple frontier" region between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, and argues none of Brazil's responses alone is sufficient. For instance, though Brazil has stepped up the enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and created agencies dedicated to trafficking, Richelson argues police and government corruption inhibits the efficacy of these efforts. The human rights framework, which includes government-sponsored shelters and toll-free help-lines, focuses too exclusively on sex trafficking and ignores labor rights. The author suggests that regional free trade agreements (FTAs) would be a better approach to combating trafficking. FTAs could incorporate a human and labor rights framework and also provide a mechanism to hold governments accountable. They would also change the underlying economic conditions that foster trafficking.

**Subjects:** [Child Labor](#), [Forced Labor](#), [FTA](#), [Sex Workers](#), [Undocumented Workers](#), [Women's Rights](#)

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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/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](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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