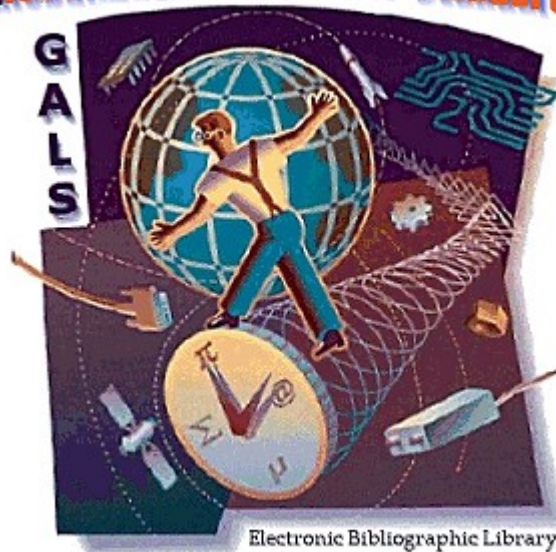


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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### **Call for Papers: The Marco Biagi Award**

To stimulate scholarly activity and broaden academic interest in comparative labor and employment law, the International Association of Labor Law Journals announces a Call for Papers for the Marco Biagi Award. The award is named in honor of the late Marco Biagi, who not only made enormous contributions to Italian labor law and to the study of comparative labor law, but who founded the Association. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2010. Submissions should be transmitted electronically via the Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal at [ballmes@law.uiuc.edu](mailto:ballmes@law.uiuc.edu) and [bln@unife.it](mailto:bln@unife.it) or

[annarita.tinti@unibo.it](mailto:annarita.tinti@unibo.it). More information can be [found here](#).

## Country-Specific Case Studies

**Josephs, Hilary K., "Measuring Progress Under China's Labor Laws: Goals, Processes, Outcomes", *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* v. 30 no2 (2009) p. 373-394**

### Abstract:

It wasn't until 1994 that China finally enacted a series of labor laws that essentially formed a labor code. In 2008, Congress' Employment Contract Law (ECL) became effective. Some accomplishments of the ECL include the codification of the right to recover unpaid wages as a civil action for debt, a requirement that full-time employment contracts be signed or else a presumption of indefinite employment may be created, a limit on the maximum length of a probationary employment period, and increased protections for employees with temporary employment. The ECL, however, does not increase protections in other substantive areas of labor law. For example it places no real limitation on the ability of the government to shrink employment in the state sector, and does not alter the inequality between urban and rural populations. Furthermore, even though China, as a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), is bound to provide its workers with freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the ECL does nothing to advance these rights. Chinese workers will be no more likely to successfully form independent unions than they were prior to the ECL's enactment. Overall, the ECL does make some changes to increase labor protections, but it does not represent a radical substantive change from the structure created by the 1994 labor laws.

**Subjects:** [Contingent Work](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Employment Law](#), [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)

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

## Women's Rights

**Kong, Gina, "Are Women-Only Trade Unions Necessary in South Korea? A Study of Women Workers' Struggles in Korea's Labor Market", *Northwestern Journal of International Law & Business* v. 29 (2009) p. 217-243**

### Abstract:

Despite South Korea's transformation into a democracy, women workers still face rampant workplace discrimination. As a result, a majority of South Korean women work irregularly and earn significantly less than their male counterparts. Male-dominated trade unions have continually neglected women's concerns and have also refrained from organizing smaller, less-skilled workplaces where women are more likely to be employed. Kong argues that women-only trade unions—which first emerged in the seventies, were subsequently quashed by the military dictatorship, and then reemerged in the wake of Korea's financial crisis in 1997—remain necessary to better women's wages and working conditions. Women's unions are also necessary protect the job security of female workers in a society where women are strongly encouraged to exit the workforce upon marriage. Since 1999, women's unions have succeeded in legalizing the unionization of the unemployed, organizing contingent workers, and passing several laws that improve working conditions for women. Yet many regressive laws and cultural prejudice still remain. Kong urges the women's unions to continue tackling laws that stereotype women and also to support social policies, like childcare and early education, that benefit women workers.

**Subjects:** [Collective Bargaining](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [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/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](mailto:dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu).

**International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal:**

<http://www.business.curtin.edu.au/business/research/journals/international-journal-of-social-security-and-workers-compensation>

The International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal is an on-line journal that focuses on international scholarship in the areas of social security, workers compensation, and occupational health, and disability support. It is published by the School of Business Law, Curtin Institute of Technology in Perth Australia. The IJSSWC contains inter-disciplinary articles in fields such as law, occupational medicine, health economics, and disability studies.

**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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