

Handbook of Research on the Global Political Economy of Work

Edited by

Maurizio Atzeni

Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones Laborales, CEIL/CONICET, Argentina and Professor, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile

Dario Azzellini

Professor Doctoral Program in Development Studies, Autonomous University of Zacatecas, Mexico

Alessandra Mezzadri

Reader in Global Development and Political Economy, SOAS, University of London, UK

Phoebe V. Moore

Professor of Management and the Futures of Work, University of Essex, UK and Senior Policy Researcher, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

Ursula Apitzsch

Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany



Edward Elgar
PUBLISHING

Cheltenham, UK • Northampton, MA, USA

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	x
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>List of contributors</i>	xii

Introduction: what is work and what is the political economy of work? <i>Maurizio Atzeni, Dario Azzellini, Alessandra Mezzadri, Ursula Apitzsch and Phoebe V. Moore</i>	1
--	---

PART I THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

SECTION A. CAPITAL ACCUMULATION AND FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

1	Class, labour and the global working class <i>Ronaldo Munck</i>	34
2	Imperialism and labour under neo-liberal globalization <i>Prabhat Patnaik and Utsa Patnaik</i>	43
3	Reserve army, 'surplus' population, 'classes of labour' <i>Henry Bernstein</i>	53
4	Social reproduction, labour exploitation and reproductive struggles for a global political economy of work <i>Alessandra Mezzadri</i>	64
5	Unfree labour in the 21st century? <i>Siobhán McGrath</i>	74
6	World-system, production, and labour <i>Manuela Boatcă</i>	83
7	The proletariat and the revolution <i>Marcel van der Linden</i>	94

SECTION B. SHIFTING REGIMES OF EXPLOITATION: FROM THE WORKPLACE TO THE TERRITORY TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

8	Analysing the labour process and the global political economy of work <i>Kendra Briken</i>	113
---	---	-----

9	Exploitation and global value chains <i>Benjamin Selwyn, Liam Campling, Alessandra Mezzadri, Elena Baglioni, Satoshi Miyamura and Jonathan Pattenden</i>	126
10	Rural-urban circuits of labour in the Global South: reflections on accumulation and social reproduction <i>Praveen Jha and Paris Yeros</i>	137

SECTION C. CONTEMPORARY DEBATES

11	Commoning labour power <i>Dario Azzellini</i>	149
12	Social and solidarity economy and self-management <i>Marcelo Vieta and Ana Inés Heras</i>	161
13	Operaismo: in search of the political economy of subjectivity <i>Gigi Roggero</i>	172
14	The global gig economy: towards a planetary labour market? <i>Mark Graham and Mohammad Amir Anwar</i>	179
15	Workers' organisation, class and collective action in precarious times <i>Maurizio Atzeni</i>	198
16	Workers and labour movements in the fight against climate change <i>Linda Clarke and Melahat Sahin-Dikmen</i>	209
17	Sustainable work: national perspectives and the valorisation of work in Europe <i>Dario Azzellini, Sebastian Brandl and Ingo Matuschek</i>	219

SECTION D. INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

18	Understanding the global political economy of work: insights from labor geography <i>Andrew Herod</i>	232
19	COVID-19, divisions of labor, and workers' struggles in the United States: insights from anthropology <i>Sharryn Kasmir</i>	241
20	Global labour history – its promises and hazards <i>Stefano Bellucci</i>	252
21	How the field of industrial relations remains relevant for understanding the global political economy of work <i>Heather Connolly</i>	266

PART II INTERSECTIONS

SECTION A. INTERSECTIONS OF WORK AND MOBILITY

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 22 | Capture, coexistence and valorization of workers' mobility across borders
<i>Claudia Bernardi</i> | 280 |
| 23 | Periphery-core migrations and the global capitalist agriculture
<i>Yoan Molinero-Gerbeau</i> | 292 |
| 24 | Migrant work exploitation and resistance in the Italian countryside:
precarious lives between violence and agency
<i>Monica Massari</i> | 302 |
| 25 | Extractive humanitarianism: unpaid labour and participatory detention
in refugees' governmentality
<i>Martina Tazzioli</i> | 312 |

SECTION B. INTERSECTIONS OF DIGITAL AND ANALOGUE WORK

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 26 | Problems in protections for working data subjects: becoming strangers
to ourselves
<i>Phoebe V Moore</i> | 323 |
| 27 | Intensification of labour value extraction under artificial intelligence
<i>Baruch Gottlieb</i> | 340 |
| 28 | Class composition in the digitalised gig economy
<i>Jamie Woodcock</i> | 351 |
| 29 | Resistance and struggle in the gig economy
<i>Vincenzo Maccarrone, Lorenzo Cini and Arianna Tassinari</i> | 360 |
| 30 | Deskilling and diminishing workers' autonomy in the digital workplace
<i>Saori Shibata</i> | 371 |
| 31 | Exploring the economics of the gig economy: legal arbitrage and
employment law
<i>Jeremias Adams-Prassl</i> | 380 |

SECTION C. INTERSECTIONS OF WORK AND LIFE

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 32 | Surrogacy as commodified transnational care work
<i>Ursula Apitzsch</i> | 392 |
| 33 | Global political economy of care and gender – crisis, extractivism and
contestation
<i>Christa Wichterich</i> | 401 |

34	Aging societies and migrant labour force in elderly care: the German case <i>Maria Kontos and Minna K. Ruokonen-Engler</i>	412
35	Questioning social reproduction theory: North African working-class migrants in France and their families <i>Catherine Delcroix</i>	422
36	Towards a global political economy of sex/work: evidence of Argentina and Costa Rica <i>Kate Hardy and Megan Rivers-Moore</i>	433

SECTION D. INTERSECTIONS OF STRUGGLES

37	Trade unions (ism), social movements and the community: connections and politics <i>Miguel Martínez Lucio</i>	445
38	Global unions and transnational labor movement <i>Julia Soul and Cecilia Anigstein</i>	458
39	Evolving forms of organizing workers in the informal economy <i>Jeemol Unni</i>	471
40	The power and politics of precarious resistance <i>Marcel Paret</i>	485
41	Spatial dimensions of strikes <i>Jörg Nowak</i>	495
42	Feminist strike, social reproduction, and debt <i>Verónica Gago and Lucía Cavallero</i>	503
43	The political economy of extractivism and social struggles in Latin America <i>Tomás Palmisano and Juan Wahren</i>	512

SECTION E. INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN WORK IN THE GLOBAL NORTH AND THE SOUTH: EXPLORING THE LINKS IN KEY PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

44	Exhaust and switch: labour and the garment industry in global production networks <i>Nikolaus Hammer</i>	523
45	Imperialism and labour: palm industry in the territories of Black communities in the border areas of Colombia and Ecuador (Tumaco-San Lorenzo) <i>Edna Yiced Martínez</i>	536

46	Skilled migration, productive forces and the development question in the era of generalized monopolies <i>Raúl Delgado Wise and Mateo Crossa Niell</i>	546
47	Major trends in work at sea: outline of a political economy of maritime labour <i>Jörn Boewe</i>	559
48	Counter-logistics in Po valley region <i>Niccolò Cuppini</i>	570

PART III PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORKING CLASS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH: LOCAL REALITIES AND GLOBAL DYNAMICS

SECTION A. ASIA

49	The political economy of labor informality in India: trends, theories and politics <i>Supriya Roy Chowdhury</i>	581
50	Informalization of labor in contemporary China <i>Jenny Chan</i>	591

SECTION B. AFRICA

51	Precariousness and push-back: capital circuits, labour markets and working-class politics in South Africa <i>Bridget Kenny</i>	603
52	Work and exploitation in Ethiopia and beyond <i>Samuel Andreas Admasie</i>	614

SECTION C. SOUTH AMERICA

53	Working-class conditions and resistances in the context of austerity in Argentina <i>Lucila D'Urso and Clara Marticorena</i>	626
54	Chile – between Pinochet's neoliberal counter-revolution and the 2019–20 anti-neoliberal revolt <i>Miguel Urrutia and Fernando Durán-Palma</i>	642
55	Brazil: inequalities, labour exploitation and new informalization processes <i>Ludmila Costihek Abílio</i>	660
	<i>Index</i>	671

Figures

14.1	The availability of online workers	184
14.2	Job advert on an online outsourcing platform, revealing little detail of the task being advertised	186
20.1	Taxonomy of labour relations	255
39.1	Informal employment as per the ILO, 2003 definition (percentages, 2016)	472
46.1	Graphical representation of the Silicon Valley ecosystem	549
46.2	Patent Cooperation Treaty of the World Intellectual Property Organization	551
46.3	Annual growth rate (percent) of immigrant and native population aged 22 and above in the United States by level of education, 1990–2017	553
46.4	Annual growth rate of the qualified immigrant population in the United States (percent)	554
46.5	Immigrants with postgraduate studies residing in the United States	555
46.6	Percentage of postgraduates in STEM areas residing in the United States. Main countries of origin (2017)	555
53.1	Real wage (Dec. 2015–Dec. 2020). Index 100: Dec. 2015	629
53.2	Registered workers (s.e.) In thousands	630
53.3	Collective bargaining in Argentina (2002–2020)	637
53.4	Collective agreements (2002–2020)	637
55.1	Changes in Brazil's social stratification according to economic classes	662

Tables

9.1	Top 2,000 TNCs annual average revenues and profits, 1996–2015 (in trillions of US dollars)	128
9.2	Key concepts and contributions of critical chain analysis	129
14.1	Oversupply of labour on Upwork.com. Data for October 24, 2018	185
26.1	Data subjects: subject <i>to</i>	333
26.2	Data subjects: subject <i>within</i>	334
26.3	Data subjects: subjects <i>of</i>	334
44.1	Main textile and wearing apparel importers to the United States and the European Union (15), 1991–2018	526
44.2	Monthly manufacturing wages compared to living wages	528
46.1	Patents applied for and granted by country, 1996–2018	552
46.2	World-wide migrant population with tertiary education, 1990–2010	552
53.1	Economy and labour force indicators, Argentina (2003–2020)	631
53.2	Strikes in the public sector (2006–2020)	633
53.3	Strikes in the private sector (2006–2020)	633