

# Global Labour Research Centre | GLRC

Newsletter. October 2024.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear GLRC Community,

The start of the new term has brought renewed energy as we reconnect with students and colleagues, and welcome new associates to the Centre. Recent work and labour reportage – from the cost-of-living crisis, to im/migrant labour abuses, concerns about return-to-office mandates, and new union drives in historically hostile sectors – has reignited debate about the future of work, workers and labour unions. If 2023 was branded the “Year of the Strike,” the cooler Autumn weather gives us pause to think about how the highs and lows of 2024 might be remembered. In this regard, the GLRC remains committed to supporting cutting-edge research and fostering enthusiastic debate about many of the most pressing issues of our age.

### New Initiatives

With the launch of the [GLRC Speaker Series](#) this past month, we are pleased to announce a new [Audio and Podcast](#) initiative. The new project will feature the audio recordings from many of the events, workshops and seminars organized by the Centre. Future additions will also feature podcast style interviews with academics, labour and community researchers and activists. We encourage readers to check out our inaugural additions on “**Resistance and Food Delivery Platforms in the Global South**,” and “**The Past, Present, and Future of Im/Migrant Labour in Canada**.”

The GLRC is also pleased to announce a new addition to our Speaker Series: **Labour Lunch Breaks**. These focused brown bag seminars will typically take place over the noon lunch hour and provide opportunities to discuss new work and labour studies research in an interdisciplinary and collegial manner. While more ‘Labour Lunch Breaks’ will be announced in the weeks and months that follow, we are pleased that Associate Professor, Tanner Mirrlees, will join us on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to discuss his new book: [Work in the Digital Media and Entertainment Industries: A Critical Introduction](#). Please mark this in your calendars!

The GLRC [Graduate Student Symposium](#) has also released its **Call For Papers: Critical Conversations in Work and Labour**. The conference will have opportunities for both in-person and online participation, including a series of professional development workshops. We would like to encourage everyone to share the Call widely with prospective participants.

### Spotlight

The GLRC is also thrilled to announce a new partnership with [Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labour](#). *Workplace* is a refereed, open access journal promoting dignity and integrity in academic work. Contributions are aimed at higher education workplace scholar-activism and dialogue on all issues of academic labour.

*Workplace* will now serve as the new home for the [Graduate Student Symposium Conference Proceedings and Working Papers](#). We encourage readers to check out *Workplace* and consider getting involved as an author and/or reviewer.

### Perspectives and Snapshots

Last month, the GLRC launched its new *Perspectives* and *Snapshots* initiatives. [Perspectives](#) are concise opinion pieces meant to spark public dialogue and new ways of thinking about the world of work. [GLRC Snapshots](#) are plain-language reports that communicate real-world impacts from academic research to the wider labour and stakeholder communities. **The GLRC would like to encourage all readers to consider submitting something today.** If you have an idea, or have any questions you want to run by us, please do not hesitate to reach out today: [GLRC@Yorku.ca](mailto:GLRC@Yorku.ca).

As well, if you are a GLRC Associate and have recently been featured in the news or media, or you have a new publication out, please let us know and we would be happy to share the word! Finally, join us in-person on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for [Building Worker Power in Latin America: Possibilities and Challenges](#). Please see the poster below for full details!

Best wishes

[Carlo Fanelli](#), PhD

Interim Director, Global Labour Research Centre  
Associate Professor, Work and Labour Studies Program,  
Department of Social Science, York University

### GLRC SPOTLIGHT

#### The 2024-2025 GLRC Speaker Series is in full swing!

In September we had our first two events of the Fall 2024.

1. ***Resistance and Food Delivery Platforms in the Global South: Latin American and Caribbean Migrant Workers Using Social Media as a Tool of Resistance***. On September 25th, GLRC Visiting Scholar Macarena Bonhomme, Associate Professor from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Universidad Autónoma de Chile, talked about her research on labour experiences and racism experienced by Latin American and Caribbean migrants working in food delivery platforms in Chile.



2. ***The Past, Present and Future of Im/Migrant Labour in Canada***. On September 26, we had a fascinating discussion with four expert panelists: Sultana R. Jahangir (South Asian Women and Immigrants' Services), Soma Chatterjee (York University), Mostafa Henaway (Immigrant Workers' Centre), and Christopher Sorio (Migrante Canada).



You can find more information about our upcoming events in this newsletter and on our [website](#).

### GLRC RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

#### **2025 GLRC's Graduate Student Symposium**

*Symposium dates: February 20 and 21, 2025*

*Application deadline: November 1, 2024*

We are pleased to announce our [9th annual Graduate Student Symposium](#) (GSS) CALL FOR PAPERS. This conference is designed to showcase the scholarship of new voices in labour studies across a diverse range of disciplines. It is our hope that the workshop will provide an interdisciplinary venue for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to share their research in a collaborative and supportive environment.

#### Highlights:

- John Eleen Lecture: *What is Antiracism? And Why it means Anticapitalism*, by Arun Kundnani.
- Students' oral presentations (in-person sessions on February 20 and online sessions on February 21). See Call for Papers [here](#).
- Professional development workshops where invited panelists will talk about (i) key aspects of academic life and (ii) career paths beyond academia.
- Social/networking opportunities for students and early career scholars.
- After the conference, presenters will be invited to submit their papers to *Workplace: a Journal for Academic Labor*.

Organizing Committee: Alaa Abdelhamid, Nicole Jokinen-Hurl, Tinu Koithara Mathew, and Julie Wilson.

### GLRC UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our [website](#) for updates on registration and further details

## Building Worker Power in Latin America: Possibilities and Challenges





 Thursday October 24th  
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

 Ross building - Room S701  
@ York University

**Panelists:**

- Jeffery R. Webber (York University) - *The Labour of Extraction in Latin America: Outlines of a Theoretical Approach*
- Chris Little (York University) - *Transnational farmworker migration and class formation: notes from fieldwork between Guatemala and Ontario*
- Cirila Quintero (Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Border Studies Institute) Mexico (will join via Zoom) - *Unions and Workers in Mexico: between a New Labor Law and CUSMA*
- Viviana Patroni (York University) - *Workers, worker organizing and the far right in Argentina*




**Oct 24, 2:30 – 4:30pm | Building Worker Power in Latin America: Possibilities and Challenges**

Panelists

- Jeffery R. Webber, Professor, Department of Politics, York University – *The Labour of Extraction in Latin America: Outlines of a Theoretical Approach*

- Chris Little, PhD candidate, Department of Politics, York University – *Transnational farmworker migration and class formation: notes from fieldwork between Guatemala and Ontario*

- Cirila Quintero, Professor and Researcher, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Border Studies Institute), Matamoros Campus – Mexico (will join via Zoom) – *Unions and Workers in Mexico: between a New Labor Law and CUSMA*

- Viviana Patroni, Professor Emerita, Department of Social Science, York University – *Workers, worker organizing and the far right in Argentina*

Location

Ross building - Room S701 @ York University

Registration (optional)

Please, [click here](#) to register for this event (this will help us plan for refreshments).

**EXTERNAL EVENTS**

**1. Trade Unions, Constitutional Rights, and Technological Change: A U.S. and Canada Comparison**, with Professor Cynthia Estlund, Crystal Eastman Professor, NYU School of Law.

Location: Osgoode Room 2002, York University

Date, time: October 31, 2024, 2:30 pm

Registration: click [here](#).

The Wagner Model is the predominant legislated labour regime in both the United States and Canada. While the two countries share many similarities in how industrial and labour relations are regulated, the differences between them are substantial. Prof. Estlund will explore these crucial differences, with a focus on how they impact the ability of trade unions to respond to and negotiate over technological changes. In particular, she will address how certain legal limitations on collective action in Canada may conflict with the recognition of collective rights as constitutional rights, and how these limitations affect the ability of trade unions to effectively address technological challenges.

**2. *Global Inequality, Divided Labor and the Politics of Racial Capitalism***, with Professor Pushkala Prasad, Skidmore College.

Location: OISE Room 8-200, 252 Bloor Street West. Toronto

Date, time: November 26, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Prof. Prasad's research interests center around workplace diversity tensions and global capitalism. She is the author of *Crafting Qualitative Research: Beyond Positivist Traditions* (Routledge, 2018) and the co-editor of the Routledge Companion to Critical Management Studies.

### 3. Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLiFF)



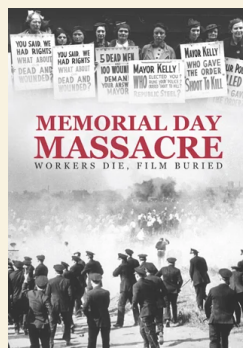
If you want to host a film screening for your union or community anywhere in Canada, you just need to [register as a Location Coordinator](#) by October 25th. (CLiFF will set up your virtual event and send you a direct link to share or to use to stream the films if you are hosting an in-person event. There are no costs to organizing a screening and all tickets are free for attendees.)

Click [here](#) for complete film descriptions and details on hosting your own event.

### 4. Film: *Memorial Day Massacre: Workers Die, Film Buried*

(Watch the trailer and learn more about the film [here](#))

Amid the explosion of American unionization efforts in the 30s, independent steelworkers in Chicago went on strike for what we now consider to be basic labor rights: an 8-hour day, 40 hour workweek, and overtime pay. They were met with such force by Chicago Police, who had been armed by Republic Steel and asked to build a station at the mill, that ten workers were killed, and dozens more injured. But the police and mill hadn't counted on the fact that a camera person was there recording the whole thing.



*Memorial Day Massacre* looks at this tragic and essential chapter in American labor history, and chronicles not only the event itself, but the firestorm that erupted over the film that documented it. Initially suppressed by Paramount, the film was ordered to be screened by a congressional committee, sparking outrage and new labor protests across the country. As a modern wave of protests are being met with police

suppression, *Memorial Day Massacre* offers an opportunity to reflect, and apply lessons learned nearly a century ago to our contemporary context.

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## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Labour Market Information Council (LMIC)

Application Deadline: November 1, 2024

Position: Research Assistant, to gather and synthesize existing literature on foreign credential recognition (FCR) in Canada.

Hours: approx. 80 hours

Start Date: November 15, with the possibility of renewal

Location: Remote

For further details, click [here \(file download\)](#).

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 1. *Work Organisation, Labour & Globalisation*

**Special issue: Hierarchies of domesticity – spatial and social boundaries**

Deadline for submissions: October 14, 2024.

Word limit: 6,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography).

For further details, click [here](#).

This special issue proposes to explore the continuum of globalized domesticities by examining the various social and spatial boundaries that exist between employers and employees across a diversity of work settings. The globalized economy of paid domestic work currently encompasses a multitude of professions (domestic workers, household employees, nannies, drivers, cooks, caregivers, gardeners, butlers, hotel staff, sports coaches, personal development coaches, etc.) situated within diverse social spatialities, ranging from grand bourgeois households to the more modest houses and apartments of the middle class. The objective of this special issue is to approach the globalized economy of domestic work not just from the standpoint of professions and services, but by considering the varied manifestations of domesticity shaped by diverse social conditions.

### 2. *Starting Over: Mass Politics and the Future of the Left*

Deadlines for submissions:

(i) Conference paper submissions: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (click here)

(ii) *Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research* (Special Issue) paper submissions: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 (click here).

Conference's date and location: May 27-30, 2025, at the University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

and the University of Naples Federico II invite individual paper and panel submissions for the conference and special issue to be held at the University of Naples. Topics may include but are not limited to: Inequality and (De)Democratization; Left Economic Policy and Labour Market Restructuring; War, Imperialism and Colonialism; Race, Gender and Other Disparities; Austerity and the State; Climate Change; Digital Labour and Platforms; Unions and Social Movements; Populism and Political Realignment; Global Governance.

If you would like to submit any announcement items (events, research or job opportunities), contact us at [glrc@yorku.ca](mailto:glrc@yorku.ca).



Global Labour Research Centre, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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