

# Global Labour Research Centre | GLRC

Newsletter. June 2025.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear GLRC Community,

The GLRC is pleased to have co-sponsored the recent conference organized by *Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research* titled, Starting Over: Mass Politics and the Future of the Left. Held at the University of Naples Federico II over four days in late-May, the conference brought together more than 50 participants from across a dozen countries. The GLRC was well represented with a number of [Associates](#) taking part in seminar and panel discussions. Participants also explored the grounds of [Ex OPG Occupato Je So' Pazzo](#). *Je So Pazzo* got its start in the 1500s as a monastery before being turned into an asylum for the 'insane' during fascist rule, until it was occupied and later returned back to the local community in the early 2000s where it now serves as a social and civic hub. You can read more about this fascinating history [HERE](#), including the work of [La Lazzarelle Cooperative](#), a project for the rehabilitation of former inmates of the Pozzuoli prison in Naples, which provided hospitality services for conference attendees.

We are also pleased to announce the latest publication of [Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labour](#), which features inaugural articles first presented at the GLRC's [Graduate Student Symposium](#) as part of a new special section of the journal first announced last Fall. With more articles to come, please read and share widely.

Readers are also encouraged to check out two new [Perspectives](#) pieces. The first, by Alvin Finkil, titled *May Day's Meaning Today*, explores the history and continuing relevance of International Workers' Day in Canada. The second, by Mehmet Erol, discusses *Labour, Youth, and the Political Economy Behind Turkey's Recent Protests*. The GLRC Book Club is also in full swing. If you are interested in joining future reading clubs, please add you're name [here](#). An announcement will follow in the Fall for all of those interested.

Congratulations to long-time GLRC Associate and supporter, Leah Vosko, on the publication of [Migrant Work by Another Name: Differential Inclusion and Precarity in Canada's International Mobility Program](#). The GLRC was pleased to

have co-sponsored the book's launch earlier this month at the University of Toronto featuring Kiran Mirchandani, Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Rupa Banerjee and Valerie Preston. Copies are now available for purchase on the UTP website.

June marks my final Newsletter as Interim Director of the GLRC. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve in this role over the last year. Thanks to all members of the GLRC community, including Executive and Associates, Under/Graduate Students, Affiliates, community-based groups, Carmen Ponce, Coordinator of the GLRC, and many others too numerous to name. I look forward to our continued work together in other avenues.

Best wishes to all over the Summer,

[Carlo Fanelli](#), PhD

Interim Director, [Global Labour Research Centre](#)

Associate Professor,

Work and Labour Studies Program, Department of Social Science

Graduate Programs in Sociology, and Politics,

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

Editor, [Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research](#)

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## GLRC SPOTLIGHT

**GLRC BOOK CLUB | If you are interested in joining, [sign up here](#) to receive the Zoom link!**

The GLRC Book Club aims to bring together readers interested in exploring critical new books in work and labour. In this first iteration, most participants voted for ***Care Activism: Migrant Domestic Workers, Movement-Building, and Communities of Care***, by **Ethel Tungohan** (2023).

We will be hosting three virtual meetings from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (EST) on the following dates:

- Monday June 16 - Chapters 2 & 3
- Monday July 7 - Chapters 4
- Monday July 28 - Chapters 5 & Conclusion

**Find out more about the book & author [here](#).**

## Global Labour Research Centre Book Club



Sign-up at  
[www.yorku.ca/research/girc/girc-book-club/](http://www.yorku.ca/research/girc/girc-book-club/)

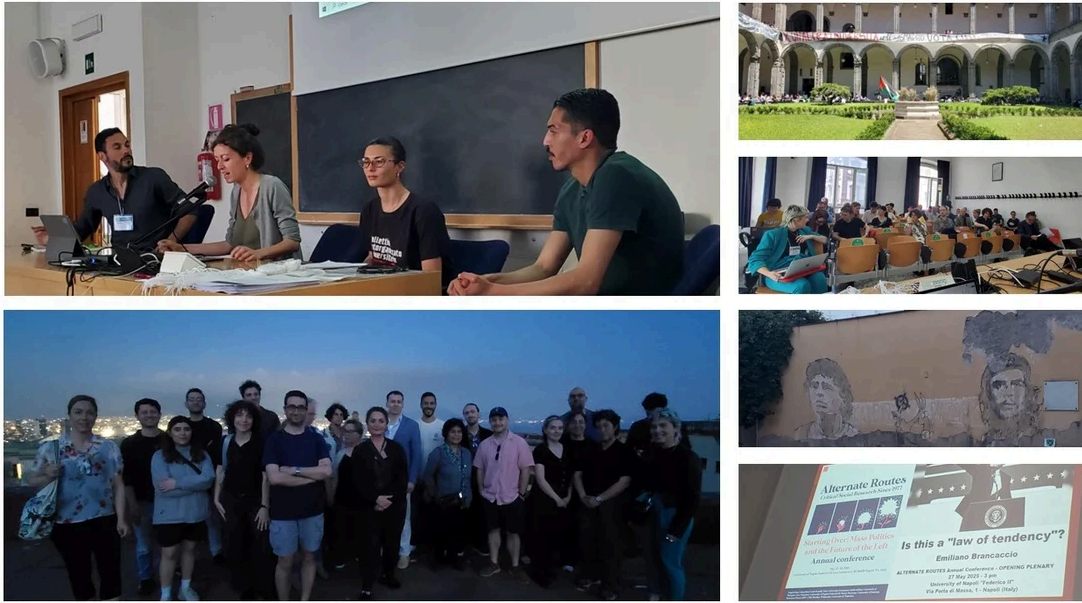
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### ASSOCIATES' RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

**1. CONFERENCE |** GLRC Interim Director Carlo Fanelli participated in the conference *Starting Over: Mass Politics and the Future of the Left*, held at the University of Naples Federico II from May 27 to May 30.

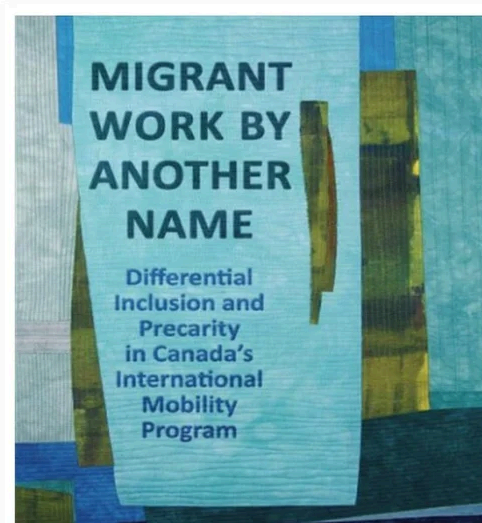
The Conference was organized by *Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research* and co-sponsored by the GLRC.



## 2. BOOK LAUNCH | Congratulations to Leah Vosko on her [new book](#), *Migrant Work by Another Name: Differential Inclusion and Precarity in Canada's International Mobility Program*.

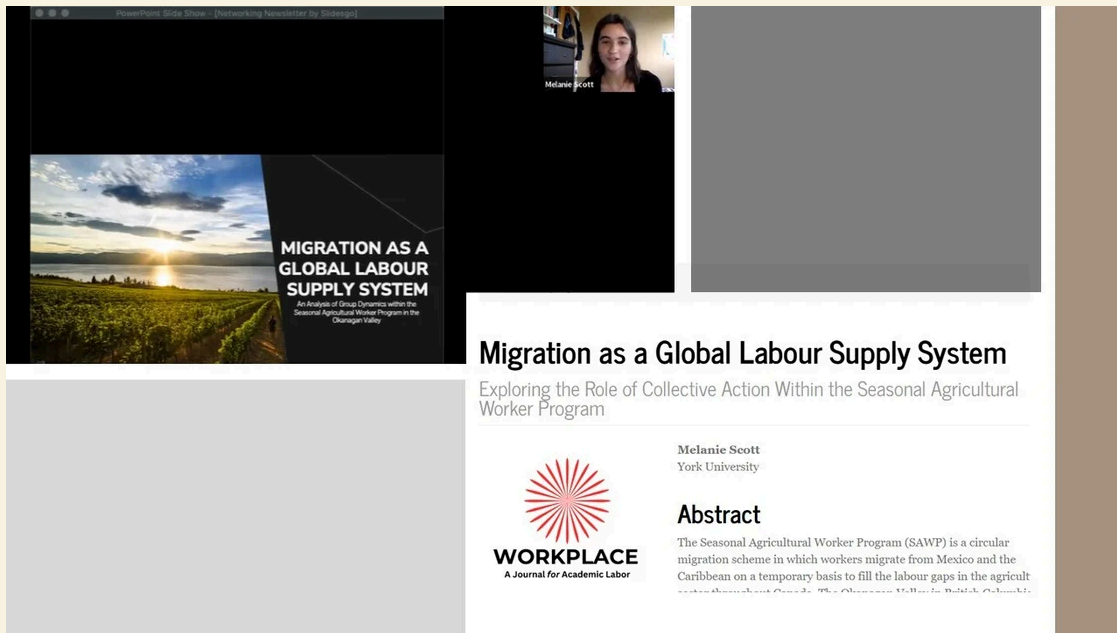
*Migrant Work by Another Name* explores the complexities of Canada's evolving international migration and employment policy landscape. It critically examines the shift towards “mobility” programs under the recently inaugurated International Mobility Program (IMP). This shift occurs alongside the contraction of certain streams within Canada’s long-standing Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The book investigates the implications of policy changes, influenced at once by public outcry over migrant worker exploitation and persistent demands for labour in the face of qualitative labour shortages in high-income countries like Canada. Grounded in a decolonial feminist political economy approach, Leah F. Vosko employs a mixed methods analysis to contrast the narrative of “mobility” with the persistent realities of precarity among transnational workers.

The book features in-depth case studies of the three largest IMP subprograms – Working Holiday, Post-Graduation, and Spousal Work Permit programs – revealing how these initiatives, despite being touted as promoting mobility, provide for temporary migrant work by another name and perpetuate distinct forms of precarity. This critical perspective challenges the notion of progress in contemporary migration policies, shedding light on the ongoing challenges faced by transnational workers in Canada.



**3. JOURNAL ARTICLE | Congratulations to Melanie Scott on her new [journal article](#), *Migration as a Global Labour Supply System: Exploring the Role of Collective Action Within the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program*, published in [Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labour](#). Melanie presented her article at a previous GLRC Graduate Student Symposium.**

**Abstract:** The Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) is a circular migration scheme in which workers migrate from Mexico and the Caribbean on a temporary basis to fill the labour gaps in the agricultural sector throughout Canada. The Okanagan Valley in British Columbia (B.C) where this study is situated, is one of the many regions workers migrate to. Here workers fall victim to numerous forms of exploitation and abuse as a result of the specific program structure and employer practices. This study examines the structural state of vulnerability that migrant workers experience, specifically analyzing how this shapes their ability to form solidarity bonds with one another in the program. Through Walia's theory of border imperialism and Foucault's theory of biopower, this paper looks at the larger structures that shape the program and how this translates into the localized experiences of workers. Engagement with collective action becomes a central experience for workers in the SAWP as they navigate living and working in Canada. [Click here](#) to read Melanie's article.



**MIGRATION AS A GLOBAL LABOUR SUPPLY SYSTEM**  
An Analysis of Group Dynamics within the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program in the Chongqing Valley

**Migration as a Global Labour Supply System**  
Exploring the Role of Collective Action Within the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

Melanie Scott  
York University

**Abstract**  
The Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) is a circular migration scheme in which workers migrate from Mexico and the Caribbean on a temporary basis to fill the labour gaps in the agricultural sector of Ontario, Canada. The Ontario Ministry of Education, University of Toronto, and York University are co-sponsors of the program.

**WORKPLACE**  
A Journal for Academic Labor

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**PUBLICATION | *Discover Global Society: Special Issue on Transnational Pop Culture and Work.*** Guest Editors:

- Professor Anja Louis, Sheffield Creative Industries Institute, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
- Dr Will Kitchen, Department of Creative Industries, University of Chichester / Bournemouth Film School, Arts University Bournemouth, UK

Deadline for Full Chapter Submissions: August 30, 2025.

[Click here](#) to submit your chapter.

*This special issue aims to compile a global dossier of interdisciplinary critical analysis to illuminate and challenge how the cultural metaphysics of modern labour are disseminated and negotiated by various forms of art, entertainment and community production. [Click here](#) to download the full call for papers.*

*If you have any questions, please contact the Guest Editors at [a.louis@shu.ac.uk](mailto:a.louis@shu.ac.uk) and [wkitchen@aub.ac.uk](mailto:wkitchen@aub.ac.uk) with the subject line "Special Issue Submission: Transnational Pop Culture and Work."*

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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