

Global Labour Research Centre | GLRC

Newsletter. July 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear GLRC Community,

As I return from a one-year leave to again helm the GLRC, I cannot help but notice that the times are no less tumultuous than when I left. The stench of fascism, genocide, racism and transphobia fill the global air. Threats to Ontario colleges and universities, including programs like George Brown College's School of Labour, signal the troubled nature of the moment in and around the province. The undermining of life, livelihoods and spaces where meaningful collective research-indebted thinking and fightback can occur, though far from new, is intensifying. Yet in the face of this, the GLRC has made major advancements over the past year led by Interim Director Carlo Fanelli and Coordinator Carmen Ponce, supported by the Executive Committee, Associates, and no doubt others. The myriad accomplishments – documented in the latest Annual Report, and on the website – help to realize core aims of the GLRC's new charter approved in 2024.

While Carlo sheds the interim role and moves on to other administrative challenges, he promises to remain a diligent and committed member of the GLRC community – it is no less than he has already done over a considerable number of years. Sadly, Carmen has taken a temporary, year-long position away from the Centre, and we will again be on the search for a replacement. Both deserve the highest praise for their efforts. In my absence I was reminded of the old adage (with some liberties) that it takes a village to run a research centre. Indeed, the GLRC is something of a village, one whose vibrancy is contingent on the contributions of the likes of Carlo and Carmen – and you.

I look forward to supporting our global labour research community over the next year. My sincerest hope is that we are – and remain – a group of villagers unwilling to endure the stench and troubling threats of the current moment.

Best wishes to all over the Summer,

Adrian A. Smith

Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School

Director, [Global Labour Research Centre](#)

York University | 4700 Keele St | Toronto, ON | M3J 1P3

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GLRC SPOTLIGHT

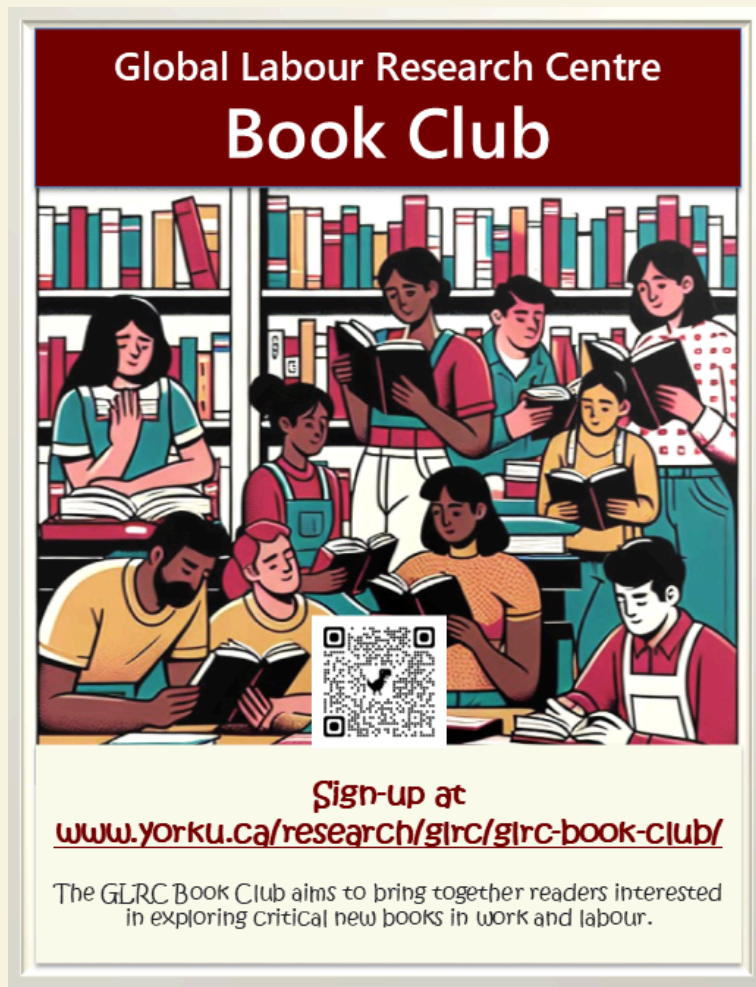
GLRC BOOK CLUB | If you are interested in joining, [sign up here](#) to receive the Zoom link!

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 one more virtual meeting from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (EST) on the following dates:

- Monday July 28 - Chapters 5 & Conclusion

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



CALL FOR PAPERS

1. CONFERENCE | Climate Havens: Humanistic Perspectives on Resilience, Migration, and Resources Symposium

University of Rochester/United States, 16-17 April 2026

Deadline for submission (papers, forums/conversations proposals): 15 August 2025

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

As climate risks intensify, the idea of “climate havens”—and the identification of regions like the Great Lakes as more resilient to environmental change—raises pressing questions about space, belonging, justice, resources, and community. This symposium will explore climate havens through historical, philosophical, artistic, literary, and cultural perspectives, organized around three central themes: (i) What Is a Haven?, (ii) Whose Haven Is It?, and (iii) Climate Havens and Natural Resources.

2. CONFERENCE | WORKLAB 2025: General Conference (International Association of Labour Museums)

Hamburg, 5–7 November 2025.

Deadline for submission: 25 August 2025

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

Theme: Workers' Culture--In an era of growing social and economic inequality, the cultural heritage of working people remains a powerful and necessary part of our collective memory. Workers' culture—from songs and rituals to union banners, tools, and everyday practices—offers insight into identity, solidarity, resistance, and creativity. It reflects how working people have made meaning in their lives across different historical periods, geographies, and political contexts. The conference invites museum professionals, curators, researchers, archivists, and cultural practitioners to explore how museums and heritage institutions collect, preserve, interpret, and communicate workers' culture—and how they can play a role in empowering communities and advancing museum practice today.

3. PUBLICATION | Special Issue: Labor Histories of Electrical Industries

Deadline for submissions: 1 October 2025

Please submit your abstract to the coeditors trish.kahle@georgetown.edu and ewan.gibbs@glasgow.ac.uk. A first draft of the essay (for internal review by the coeditors) will be due by February 1, 2026. Essays will also undergo doubly-anonymous peer-review through the journal. The special issue of *ILWCH* is slated to appear in early 2028.

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

The special edition will integrate varying political and economic circumstances which shaped electricity labor across differing global contexts. We are keen to record examples from post-colonial, Global South, and socialist settings. While proposals from any region of the world will be considered, regions of particular interest include East Asia, South Asia, West Africa, and SWANA/MENA.

4. PUBLICATION | Education, how, what and for whom? (Workers of the World's upcoming themed issue)

Deadline for submissions: 15 July 2025

Please submit your paper to the Executive Board at [**workersoftheworld1848@gmail.com**](mailto:workersoftheworld1848@gmail.com)

This call is open to all teachers, struggle collectives, researchers and scientists to reflect critically on education and propose solutions that are both a critical reflection

on education and a proposal for transformative action.

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

5. 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: 30 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 and 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.



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