Global Labour Research Centre | GLRC

Newsletter. July 2026.

MESSAGE FROM ADRIAN A. SMITH, DIRECTOR

In mid-June, the second cohort of participants successfully completed **Workers' Justice: A Community-Based Course on Rights and Action**. Once again, the GLRC joined forces with Jane/Finch Centre and Jane Finch Education Action Group to deliver the eight-week course, which began in mid-April. A spirited group of community members took part in weekly sessions exploring topics such as good jobs, workplace health and safety, wage theft, worker organizing, contemporary issues affecting the Jane Finch community and beyond, and solidarity. A dedicated team of facilitators from worker and community organizations, labour unions and academia guided participants through engaging discussions and shared their expertise throughout the course. Participants received certificates of completion issued by the GLRC.

Planning is underway to host the course with a third cohort beginning in September 2026.

2026-2027 Graduate Student Symposium Organizing Committee

Planning is also underway for the annual Graduate Student Symposium. **We are accepting expressions of interest from graduate students for four positions on the 2026-2027 organizing committee**. In addition to gaining academic conference organizing experience, committee members play a pivotal role in shaping the Centre's core programming. Committee participation includes an honorarium. Please send a CV (max 2pp) and a letter explaining your desire to be involved to: glrc@yorku.ca to the attention of GLRC Coordinator Roxana Escobar Ñañez as soon as possible but no later than **August 10, 2026**.

2026-2027 Work Study Position

The GLRC is also actively recruiting a **work study student** for the fall and winter term, see details below. We strongly urge York undergraduates interested in social justice to apply. The position provides a great opportunity to support the activities of the Centre, working closely with the coordinator and director.

Graduate Student Community on Global Labour

The GLRC is seeking **PhD students and postdoctoral fellows** to join a supportive research community focused on labour and livelihoods, broadly construed. This six-person cohort will meet in person for two hours during the first week of each month, from **October to March**, to share works in progress and exchange constructive feedback in a collaborative academic environment. Participants will receive a small honorarium for their involvement. Interested applicants should email Roxana, GLRC Coordinator, at **glrc@yorku.ca** with a brief description of the work they would like to present and their availability no later than **September 11th**. Visit the full post for complete program details and application information here.

Grant Application Support (Faculty Associates)

For Faculty Associates planning grant applications in the coming year, we invite you to consider allowing the GLRC to support your initiatives. The GLRC offers administrative support in the preparation of grant applications and administration of successful grants, in exchange for a 3% charge. The GLRC offers in-kind supports as well as use of its space (GLRC boardroom and/or lounge). We welcome hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

GLRC EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Collaborate with the GLRC!

Have an idea for a workshop, panel, conference, public talk, film screening, community event, or other labour-related activity? The GLRC is now accepting collaboration requests through a new online **form**. York University units, community

organizations, labour organizations, researchers, and other partners are invited to submit proposals for events and activities that align with the GLRC's mandate.

Complete the **form** to tell us about your event and the type of support you are seeking—from co-organization and promotion to venue, speaker, or funding support. Requests are reviewed based on alignment with the GLRC's mission, available resources, and scheduling capacity. For questions, contact **glrc@yorku.ca**.

2. Work-Study Opportunity

Fall–Winter 2026–2027 (400 hours)

The Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) is hiring a work-study student to support research, events, and digital projects focused on labour, inequality, and social justice. Priority will be given to students with disabilities.

Responsibilities include:

- Research, literature reviews, and plain-language summaries
- Event planning and coordination
- Podcast production and digital content (website updates, accessibility)

Qualifications:
Interest in labour/social justice, strong organization and communication skills, and an interest in digital media or web content (experience is an asset).

What you gain:
Hands-on experience in research, event coordination, and digital media in a supportive environment.

Eligibility: Must qualify for York's Work-Study Program.
Apply with: Cover letter (directed to GLRC Director Adrian Smith) + resume (max 2 pages) to glrc@yorku.ca

Deadline: July 31, 2026

Interviews: Starting week of August 10, 2026

More details HERE

3. GLRC Community Lounge – Office Hours Now Open

The GLRC is pleased to support our community by opening the Centre's lounge for office hours on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Dependants are welcome.

The lounge provides a comfortable space for studying and work, along with access to a small library, a mini-fridge, and a coffee maker.To use the lounge, **students must register in advance here** and indicate the time they plan to arrive.

We look forward to welcoming you into the space!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS | Perspectives Series

- We recruited them, now we are blocking them: Canada's broken promise to newcomers, by Lynn Yu Ling Ng. *GLRC Perspectives No. 10, January 2026*

CALL FOR PAPERS | GLRC Submissions

We welcome submissions throughout the year for:

1. Perspectives series – concise opinion pieces meant to spark public dialogue and encourage new ways of thinking on a range of work and labour related issues. These articles are meant to inform and promote labour perspectives in a manner that challenges the current state of knowledge in a particular field;
2. Snapshot series – plain-language reports and summaries meant to connect labour, community and academic research in the public interest. It considers

"what the research found" and "how it can be used" to identify and communicate real-world impacts from academic research.

Note: Those interested in submitting to either initiative in **video or audio format** can contact us by email at: glrc@yorku.ca.

CALL FOR PAPERS

1. International Call for Projects

Deadline: September 25, 2026

The Game in Lab Foundation invites disciplinary and interdisciplinary research proposals from scientific research institutions worldwide. Projects of up to 24 months are eligible. This year's competition prioritizes research on Sustainability, Justice and Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing, welcoming both fundamental and applied research across disciplines.

More information HERE

2. The Future at Stake: The Global Left in the 21st Century

Deadline: September 21, 2026

This international essay collection seeks contributions exploring contemporary left-wing movements from critical, situated, and transnational perspectives. The editors welcome essays from academics, activists, community organizers, youth, and public policymakers examining Marxism, ecosocialism, feminism, decolonial thought, political organization, social movements, and alternative futures.
The project promotes multilingual, open-access scholarship and aims to strengthen dialogue between the Global South and Global North while connecting research with

political action.

More information HERE

3. Alternative Organising and Degrowth: Countering Capitalist Polycrisis and Organising Liveable Worlds

Full paper deadline: September 30, 2026

The journal *Organization* invites submissions for a special issue examining how alternative forms of organizing and degrowth perspectives challenge capitalism amid intersecting ecological, economic, and social crises. Contributions may be theoretical, empirical, or methodological and should engage with organizing practices that envision more just and sustainable futures.
Papers (maximum 11,000 words excluding references) should be submitted through the SAGETrack system by September 30, 2026.

Submission guidelines HERE

4. States, Societies, and Popular Classes in Latin America: Studying Transformations in Political Relations from Below

Workshop proposal deadline: September 5, 2026

Researchers are invited to submit proposals for an international workshop to be held on December 4, 2026, in Strasbourg, France. The workshop focuses on political relations "from below" in Latin America and welcomes papers in English, French, or Spanish. Organizers encourage historically grounded and interdisciplinary analyses of states, popular classes, social movements, and political transformation.
Submissions should include a 400-word abstract, presentation title, short biography, and contact information.

More information HERE

5. Working Across Divisions (LAWCHA Conference 2027)

Proposal deadline: November 1, 2026

The Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) invites proposals for its 2027 conference, *Working Across Divisions*, taking place June 24–26, 2027, at the University of Massachusetts Boston.
The conference welcomes papers, panels, and roundtables addressing labour history, working-class studies, migration, race, gender, organizing, and social movements across historical and contemporary contexts.

More information HERE
Conference email: LAWCHA2027@gmail.com

6. Racial Uplift and Political Struggles in Slave and Post-Slave Societies

Article deadline: December 1, 2026

Slaveries & Post-Slaveries invites original interdisciplinary articles examining ideologies of racial uplift in slave and post-slave societies from the late eighteenth century onward. Contributions from history, sociology, political science, anthropology, and related fields are encouraged.
The issue welcomes English and French submissions exploring race, emancipation, political struggle, and post-slavery societies from comparative and transnational perspectives.

More information HERE

7. Marx Conference 2027: The Current Conjuncture and the Making of Possible Futures

Abstract deadline: December 15, 2026

The Marx Centre (MSGAP) at York University invites paper, panel, and roundtable proposals for the Marx Conference 2027, to be held August 3–5, 2027, in Toronto. The conference examines the contradictions of the current capitalist conjuncture and explores strategies for rebuilding socialist politics amid intersecting crises of inequality, militarism, ecological destruction, authoritarianism, and democratic erosion. Organizers welcome contributions combining theoretical analysis with historical research and practical organizing experience.

Suggested topics include political economy, labour, ecology, imperialism, artificial intelligence, social movements, feminism, decolonization, anti-racism, socialist strategy, trade unions, education, and popular struggles.
Individual proposals should include a title, abstract (maximum 400 words), up to five keywords, and author information. Panel proposals are also welcome.

More information HERE

8. The (Re)Turn to Marx: New Readings of Marx and the Future of Organization

Full paper deadline: April 1, 2027

The journal *Organization* invites full paper submissions for a special issue exploring new readings of Marx in relation to organization, capitalism, critique, and emancipatory praxis. The issue welcomes conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions addressing contemporary ecological, political, economic, and social crises through Marxian perspectives while examining possibilities for organizing alternatives beyond capitalism.

Submission inquiries: returntomarxSI@gmail.com

9. Oxford Intersections – *AI in Society* (Work Section)

Deadline: August 31, 2026

Researchers, practitioners, professionals, and PhD students are invited to submit abstracts for the *Work* section of Oxford University Press's *Oxford Intersections: AI in Society*. Edited by Valerio De Stefano (York University) and Hannah Johnston (York University), this interdisciplinary collection explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping work, labour markets, workers' rights, and workplace governance. Topics include labour market impacts, AI and labour regulation, collective bargaining, algorithmic discrimination, and occupational health and safety.

More information: AI.Society@oup.com

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Amankwaa, A., Ayentimi, D. T., Ruggunan, S., Dayaram, K., & Burgess, J. (2026). Decent work in Sub-Saharan Africa: A review and future research agenda. *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First

Choonara, J., & Carter, B. (2026). Contested capital: Class and the sociology of work. *Sociology* Online First

Choper, J., Lehner, L., & Parolin, Z. (2026). Countervailing Powers: Labor Unions Against the Buyer Power of Walmart Supercenters. *American Sociological Review*, *91*(3), 435-463.

Elfstrom, Manfred & Chan, Anita (2026). Use and Abuse of Chinese Workers Recruited for Belt and Road Projects Abroad. *Journal of Contemporary Asia* Online

First

Frenkel, Stephen J.2026. New Technology and Work: AI and the Coming Struggle to Democratise Work Organisation. *Sociology Compass*: e70212

Guelerman, A. (2026). Digitizing Labor Unrest: Heterogeneous Effects of Digital Communication on Strike Frequency in Brazil. *Politics & Society* Online First

Ipsen, A., & Collins, J. (2026). The vulnerability fix: How U.S. immigration policies institutionalize worker precarity. *Critical Sociology* Online First

Niemczyk, I., & Parteka, A. (2026). Mitigating the impact of robotisation on the European labour markets: The role of trade unions. *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First

Nowak, J., Fares, T. M., & Festi, R. (2026). eCommerce as a battlefield in the US–China tech race: Effects on the global workplace in Brazil. *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First

Seghezzi, F. (2026). Do trade unions still mediate democracy? Labour representation in the age of populism. *Economic and Industrial Democracy* Online First

Tilly, C., & Pulignano, V. (2026). Technological Change, Work and Power: A Framework for Analyzing how Actors and Institutions Distribute Power in the AI-Driven Technological Change Process. *Work and Occupations* Online First

Zhang, Yi, Liansheng Wang, and Maofu Wang. (2026) Beyond the Illusion of Choice: Responsive Autonomy and Worker Agency in Platform Labor *Sociology Compass*: e70218

Zheng, X., & Meng, Q. (2026). Platform-union negotiation in China: Unified framework and corporate strategies. *Journal of Industrial Relations* Online First

Newsletter Announcements

We encourage submission of items for the newsletter, including calls for abstracts and papers, published articles and other relevant announcements. *Items received by the 25th day of each month will be published in the upcoming newsletter*. Items received after that date will be included in a future month. From time to time, we will circulate a mid-month list of events, typically around the 15th day. Please fill out this **form** or send all items to **glrc@yorku.ca.**

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