Global Labour Research Centre | GLRC

Newsletter. August 2026.

MESSAGE FROM ADRIAN A. SMITH, DIRECTOR

This month's newsletter – arriving at mid-month due to scheduled vacations – includes some information on initiatives and activities planned for the school year. We look forward to supporting a range of activities in the coming year, I list below some of the upcoming offerings.

AI, Automation and the Future of Work: Key Project Insights

A GLRC-supported workshop addressing artificial intelligence and work in the greater Toronto area, held in late March. Professor Asmita Bhutani has produced a detailed report on the project workshop. This work is usefully grounded in the experiences of workers' organizations in confronting AI's unfolding impacts. The report is available HERE.

Perspectives: Broken Futures and Expendable Labour: Administrative breakdown, Student dissent, and Youth Precarity in India

We welcome a contribution on the recent social agitations of young people in India. Doctoral student Oleena Chaudhuri, one of the committed organizers of the GLRC's 2026 Graduate Student Symposium, delves into the youth-led uprising, which emerged in response to contemptuous statements made by the India's Chief Justice Surya Kant, who characterized unemployed young people as parasites and cockroaches. Chaudhuri offers timely insight into the mass response, mounted under the cheeky banner of the Cockroach Janta Party.

Up in Flames: Anticolonial Impulses for a Radically-Just Transition

The GLRC, in partnership with the Infrastructure Beyond Extractivism (IBE) project and Trade Unions and Labour Environmentalism Network (TULE), will host a year-long series tackling the theme of just transition. We have a host of events and activities planned.

Our first in-person event, a documentary screening and panel on Abby Martin's Earth's Greatest Enemy (2026), will occur on Thursday September 24th at 5pm, in partnership with George Brown College Labour Fair event organizers, on the George Brown campus in downtown Toronto [Room TBD].

In October, we will host a just transition workshop focused on postsecondary education workers and unions in Greater Toronto. A lunchtime event at York University, we will have a prominent labour educator from Quebec leading the session. Details to follow. All are welcome. Registration required.

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.**

Guest Speaker Coordination Initiative

We are launching a guest lecture coordination initiative in support of GLRC Faculty Associates. The initiative supports colleagues in bringing multiple classes together for a shared guest lecture, with support for speaker outreach, coordination,

promotion, and audience engagement. Requests can be submitted through this form, ideally at least four weeks in advance of the proposed event date.

Collaboration Request Form

The GLRC welcomes opportunities to co-organize and support events that align with our mandate. Faculty members who would like to propose a workshop, panel, conference, public talk, film screening, community event, or other labour-related activity can submit a proposal through our new collaboration request form.

We look forward to another year of GLRC activities and invite you to join us during the 2026-2027 school year.

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. 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!

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

1. New Migrant Justice Toolkit

Created following the October 2025 Coast Salish Migrant Summit, this toolkit shares practical resources and collective learnings from migrant justice organizers, researchers, and legal advocates. Topics include mutual aid, ethical research, grant writing, and community lawyering. The toolkit serves as both a record of the summit and a resource for ongoing movement-building in the face of growing anti-immigrant and far-right policies.

Learn more HERE

Credits:
Toolkit Lead: Evelyn Encalada Grez
Toolkit Lead Assistant: Lucy Hardman
Graphic Design: jade guthrie
Reviewers: Regina Baeza Martinez, Cenen Bagon, Byron Cruz, Kendra Strauss
Notetakers: Angela Bohorquez Oviedo, Bella Dansereau, Linh Le

RECENT PUBLICATIONS | Perspectives Series

- Broken Futures and Expendable Labour: Administrative breakdown, Student dissent, and Youth Precarity in India, by Oleena Chaudhuri , *Perspectives No. 11, August 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. 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

2. Borders and Sustainability: Human, Natural, and Labour Resources in Working-Class History

Deadline: August 31, 2026

The Entangled Histories Seminar Series invites proposals examining the relationship between borders, sustainability, labour, and natural resources across historical periods. Contributions may come from labour history, political economy, environmental history, gender studies, oral history, anthropology, and related fields. The 2026–2027 series will take place online. Proposals must include a 250–300-word abstract, a short biography, affiliation, contact information, and preferred availability.

More information HERE

3. 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

4. The “Categories of Emancipation” in Feminist and Queer Anthropology

Deadline: September 15, 2026

This special issue invites ethnographically grounded contributions examining how feminist and queer concepts such as emancipation, equality, gender, agency, and autonomy circulate, change, and become contested across different social and political contexts.
Submissions are welcomed in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, or French. Proposals should include an abstract of approximately 3,000 characters, a short bibliography, and a biography of no more than 150 words.

More information HERE

5. Standardizing Feminist Futures? Standards, Governance, and the Politics of Equality

Deadline: September 15, 2026

The journal *Feminism & Organization* invites contributions examining standards as political and organizational infrastructures through which feminist futures and inequalities are shaped, institutionalized, and contested.
The guest editors welcome theoretical, conceptual, and empirical work from feminist organization studies and related fields. Abstracts of up to 500 words may be submitted in English, German, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.

More information HERE

6. 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

7. 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

8. Radical Assembly: Facing Despair, Fighting Despair

Deadline: September 30, 2026

Radical Assembly invites proposals exploring the political conditions that produce despair and the collective practices through which it can be confronted. The conference seeks to bring together academics, activists, organizers, and others committed to critical analysis and transformative political action.
The conference will take place from April 22 to 24, 2027.

More information HERE

9. 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

10. The Golden Age of Rural-Urban Migrations? Grassroots Perspectives on a Global Phenomenon, 1930s–1980s

Deadline: October 1, 2026

This international workshop invites proposals examining rural-to-urban migration from grassroots, microhistorical, biographical, and intergenerational perspectives. Suggested themes include work, social mobility, migration networks, gender

relations, discrimination, education, consumption, and the experiences of becoming urban or remaining rural.
The in-person workshop will take place at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, from February 18 to 20, 2027. Submissions should include an abstract of up to 250 words and a short biography.

More information HERE

11. Transforming Workers' Education for Social Justice in Turbulent Times (XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology)

Deadline: October 14, 2026

Researchers, educators, labour activists, practitioners, and graduate students are invited to submit abstracts to the session *Transforming Workers' Education for Social Justice in Turbulent Times* at the *XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology* (July 4-10, 2027). The session explores the challenges and possibilities of workers' education in a time of ongoing social, economic, and political crises, with a particular focus on precarious work, workers' knowledge production, and education for social justice. Contributions from labour, community, and academic contexts are welcome.

For more information see HERE and contact Prof. Evelyn Encalada Grez (evelyn_encalada_grez@sfu.ca)

12. 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

13. The New World: Imperialism, Fascism, and Class Struggle

Deadline: November 2, 2026

Historical Materialism Paris invites academics and activists to submit proposals examining imperialism, fascism, authoritarianism, class struggle, and the changing conditions of global capitalism. Proposals may respond to the conference's central theme or one of its thematic streams.
Panel proposals of up to 1,500 words and individual presentation proposals of up to 300 words may be submitted in French or English. The conference will take place in Paris from July 1 to 3, 2027.

More information HERE

14. 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

15. CAWLS 2027 Annual Conference – Call for Papers

Deadlines: December 11, 2026 (Panels, Roundtables & Workshops) | January 10, 2027 (Individual Papers)

Proposals are invited for Making History: Workers, Conflict, and Collective Action, the 13th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Work & Labour Studies (CAWLS), to be held at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, June 2-4, 2027. The conference welcomes submissions from established scholars, graduate students, and union and community researchers on all aspects of work and labour studies, with particular interest in workers' struggles, organizing, labour conflict, collective action, and social justice.

More information: https://cawls.ca/en/2027-annual-conference/
Submissions and inquiries: CAWLS2027@gmail.com

16. 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

17. 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

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Anner, M., & Bautista Páez, D. (2026). The dynamics of interacting labor governance in global production: Leveraging external mechanisms for bottom-up worker empowerment. *ILR Review*. Advance online publication.

Ayentimi, D. T., Ruggunan, S., Dayaram, K., & Burgess, J. (2026). The potential and challenges in supporting decent work in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Industrial Relations*. Advance online publication.

Bieler, A. (2026). Divisions in the core of global capitalism? Italian labour and ‘free trade’. *New Political Economy*. Advance online publication.

Choto, A. T. (2025). COVID-19 crisis and workers organizing through WhatsApp: A case study of the 2020 ‘teachers can’t breathe’ movement in Zimbabwe. *Social Movement Studies*. Advance online publication.

Hansen, N. W., & Hau, M. F. (2026). Unions as digital trailblazers: How digitalizing voting practices (re)shape membership and participation. *New Technology, Work and Employment*. Advance online publication.

Jia, H., Wan, Y., Liu, M., Fan, L., & Qiu, Y. (2026). Traveling games: Burawoy’s making-out game in China labor studies. *Critical Sociology*. Advance online publication.

Leung, E. M.-T., & Chan, J. (2026). ‘Extremely reactionary gentlemen’ amidst a ‘modern miracle’: Was a compromise between labour and capital in British Hong Kong unthinkable?. *Labor History*. Advance online publication.

Liang, J., Pun, N., & Qian, Z. K. (2026). Reflecting Michael Burawoy’s labor process and factory regime theory and its influence on Chinese labor studies. *Critical Sociology*. Advance online publication.

López-Andreu, M. (2026). Regulating from below: Direct action, precarious labour, and worker-led regulation in Spain. *Sociology*. Advance online publication.

Nowak, J. (2026). Social formation and mode of production: Peripheral capitalism, non-capitalist relations, and forms of labor in contemporary capitalism. *Science & Society*. Advance online publication.

Melby, E. (2026). ‘Withdrawal from the system’: Women frontline workers’ political trajectories during COVID-19. *Social Movement Studies*. Advance online publication.

Pérez-Valenzuela, D., & Medel, R. M. (2026). Underground unionization: Socio-spatial strategy within a neoliberal labor regime. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*. Advance online publication.

Pickering, S. D., Hansen, M. E., Dorussen, H., Reifler, J., Scotto, T., Sunahara, Y., & Yen, D. (2026). Whose side are you on? Ideology and support for educational strikes in England. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*. Advance online publication.

Schofield, P., Martínez Lucio, M., & Rafferty, A. (2026). Voice, regulation and memory in a voiceless environment: Case studies of informal legacies of collectivism, voice and regulation in non-union SMEs in the United Kingdom. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*. Advance online publication.

Schofield-Georgeson, E. (2026). Explaining corruption in the Australian construction union: A critical perspective. *Journal of Industrial Relations*. Advance online publication.

Silva, V., & Velasco, J. J. (2026). Trade unions and the far right: Workplace geopolitics in Latin America. *Journal of Industrial Relations*. Advance online publication.

Social Movement Studies - Double special issue: *New insights into global labour: Movement strategy and mobilisation in the context of crisis* (Vol. 25, Issues 4–5, 2026).

Siu, K., & Koo, A. (2026). Extended case across time and borders: Global ethnography of factory regimes, migration channels, and skill transfer in China, Vietnam, and Japan. *Critical Sociology*. Advance online publication.

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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