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Editors

Global Labour in Distress, Volume I

Globalization, Technology and Labour Resilience

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24	Arpino, B., Pronzato, C. D., & Tavares, L. P. (2014). The Effect of Grandparental Support on Mothers’ Labour Market Participation: An Instrumental Variable Approach. <i>European Journal of Population</i> , 30, 369–390. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-014-9319-8
26	López-Calva, L. F., & Ortiz-Juarez, E. (2014). A Vulnerability Approach to the Definition of the Middle Class. <i>The Journal of Economic Inequality</i> , 12, 23–47. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10888-012-9240-5
28	Finch, C., Emrich, C. T., & Cutter, S. L. (2010). Disaster Disparities and Differential Recovery in New Orleans. <i>Population and Environment</i> , 31, 179–202. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-009-0099-8

PREFACE

The end to the Cold War and a unipolar world coincided with the retrenchment of the state and a move towards a more market-based economy. Since then, what developments occurred in the world of labour? Globalization and technology provoked a major change in the economic production, while schooling has been expanded and democratized throughout the globe, with developing countries at different stages now educating most of their youths. But what about labour conditions and the inequality of earnings? How resilient has been labour to adapt to these changes? How did labour institutions and policies evolve?

Over the last 30 years, the power of labour showed, at best, contradictory signs or even became considerably frailer. Following the earlier elections of Thatcher and Reagan and contributing to the declining formal labour protection, developed countries experienced falling union rates and social concertation practices. Segmented labour markets led often to polarization of labour earnings and conditions. Progresses in living standards and in different spheres in human development, noticeably in Asia and particularly China, made starker the inequality in the Global South. Since the 1990s, there has also been a deceleration in the liberalization of migration policies that predominated since WWII, while international migration has remained remarkably stable contributing to the higher complexity and diversity of labour markets. What would be coined as the “Washington Consensus” neglected labour conditions in developing countries.

Labour institutions were thus challenged throughout the period. Informal labour, female and youth and child labour received increasing attention and resources. However, recurrent crises, high unemployment,

youth unemployment and underemployment, low wages and, in general, falling wage shares have been motives for discontentment and even upheaval of many. Intersectionality often comes to make more severe the situation of some. A more globalized and interconnected world also made inequalities more visible, discomfoting and conflictive. In sum, the age post-1991 was marked by *global labour in distress*.

This two-volume book aims to frame these issues by composing a 30-year perspective, which allows for an uncommon depth of analysis. By doing so, *Global Labour in Distress* collects selected high-influential journal articles on labour issues around the globe since 1991 and compiles them with brief unpublished masterpieces defined by highly recognized experts, providing a complementary view from today's perspective. Building on the editors' expertise on economics, demography and development studies, the journal articles were selected from a pool of highly reputed Springer journals among the academic community. Their varied disciplinary approaches provide a multidisciplinary perspective to labour issues.

The selection was based on a pool of 15,047 journal articles of 1474 issues of 11 scientific journals, as identified in Table 1. For the selection of the articles, the editorial team searched for topics related to labour markets and globalization; jobs and technological change; labour agency and resilience; labour earnings and inequality; (in)decent work; continuity and change of labour institutions; gender, in a crosscutting manner. In a first stage, the editors chose circa 60 papers, to, in a second stage, reduce it to

Table 1 Springer journals included in the selection

<i>Areas</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Number of articles</i>
Economics	<i>Empirical Economics</i> <i>Journal of Family and Economic Issues</i> <i>Journal of Economic Inequality</i> <i>Journal of Population Economics</i>	12
Development	<i>Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy</i> <i>European Journal of Development Research</i> <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i>	11
Demography and other social sciences	<i>European Journal of Population</i> <i>Journal of Labor Research</i> <i>Population and Environment</i> <i>Social Indicators Research</i>	7

the final list. In the selection of the papers, we privileged the quality of the papers, the variety of topics and the diversity of affiliations/institutions. The final volumes gather “[a]n amazing line up of great authors,” in the words of one contributor. Fifty-six chapters, from 91 authors affiliated to institutions from 22 countries, covering different regions of the world. After the start of the project, one of the authors was actually awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, we leave it to the reader to identify who. The geographical variety of each section is fundamental given the importance of studying the context. The two volumes feature complementary topics on labour issues, but sometimes with opposing views.

Each volume is structured in three main sections and analyses well-defined but also complementary topics on labour issues. All sections include an introduction by the editors followed by a compilation of selected articles’ selection and masterpieces. In the first volume, *Globalisation, Technology and Labour Resilience*, the first section is about developments that occurred in the world of labour related to the integration of labour markets and globalization, bridging international migration drivers and policy and the level of internationalization of production. The second section analyses technological change and innovation, discussing structural transformation and frugal innovation, employment and jobs adaptation, multinationals and survival entrepreneurship. Finally, the third section discusses the change in labour agency and resilience concerning major changes in international and national institutional landscapes, discussing informalization of labour and underemployment, the politics of workplace wellbeing and the effects of crises and their recovery.

The second volume *Earnings, (In)decent work and Institutions* follows a similar structure. It is also structured into three main sections. The first one addresses earnings and inequality, bridging trade globalization and COVID-19 pandemic effects, the geography of poverty, horizontal inequality and inequality of opportunity, unions’ impact on wages and the gender gap. The second one focuses on the analysis of recent trends in decent work, discussing labour standards, unemployment and minimum wages and gender issues and work-family balance. Last, the third section discusses the role of labour market policies and its interactions with institutions, and it combines pieces on growth and labour standards, social protection policies and policy tools.

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The community around the selected journals, the editors and reviewers are also to be praised as our selection benefited from their constant and careful mostly unpaid work. Science, although imperfect and incomplete, has allowed us a long way in understanding social phenomena.

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To my wife and lovely daughters, and to my parents from whom I learned first-hand experience on some labour-related issues like child work or rural to urban migration, but also resilience. Thanks for everything (Raul Ramos).


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