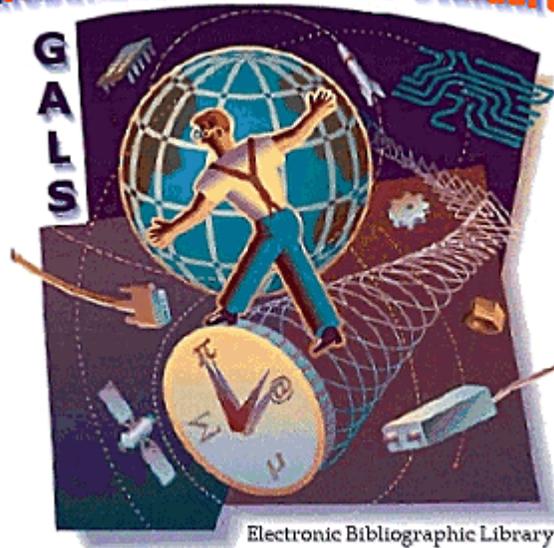


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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## Country Specific Case Study: South Africa

**Julie Goldscheid, *Gender Violence and Work in the United States and South Africa: The Parallel Processes of Legal and Cultural Change*, 19 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF GENDER, SOCIAL POLICY AND THE LAW. 921 (2011).**

**Abstract:**

This article explores the intersection of economic independence of women through participation in the workforce and gender violence, using a comparative analysis of the United States and South Africa. The author contends that economic independence is central to women's ability to navigate abuse, and thus women's ability to work in the face of intimate partner violence is critical. She posits that while South Africa has gained much ground on enacting anti-gender violence legislation—in many ways surpassing those in the United States—a high rate of intimate partner gender violence nevertheless persists. Among the reasons are the widely accepted views of male dominance and patriarchy in South Africa, the prioritization of racial justice over anti-gender violence, the high rates of poverty, and the predominance of employment in the informal labor sector. In contrast, in the United States, there has been forty years of advocacy in the area of gender violence, although there nevertheless remains work, particularly in the areas of enforcement and implementation. Ultimately, this article calls for a comprehensive approach to combating gender violence that challenges biases from a social, cultural, and political perspective.

Full-text links: || [WESTLAW](#)

Subjects: [Women's Rights](#), [Country Specific Case Studies](#)

## Comparative Labor Law

Susan Bisom-Rapp, Andrew Frazer & Malcolm Sargeant, *Decent Work, Older Workers and Vulnerability in the Economic Recession: A Comparative Study of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States*, 15 *EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY JOURNAL*. 43 (2011).

### Abstract:

This article profiles how older workers fared in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States during the most recent economic recession. As a metric to this end, the author employs three of the four basic themes undergirding the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda: employment promotion, social protection, and fundamental rights. While the recession affected each of the countries profiled to a different extent, in all three countries, older workers have been among the least affected in the recession with regard to their labor market participation. This phenomenon is in large part due to the fact that in recessions, younger, less experienced workers are in lower demand than older, more experienced workers. The recession has, however, had a greater impact on older workers with regard to their quality of work. In all three countries, older workers are obtaining precarious nature, and are also experiencing age discrimination. Moreover, there is great vulnerability among older workers as a result of the reduction of state-supported retirement security. The authors contend that examining the application of the goals of the Decent Work Agenda, rather than simply employment rates among older workers, provides an accurate picture of how older workers fare in times of economic instability. Having done so, they find that the picture is bleak.

Subjects: [Comparative Labor Law](#),  
[Workplace Discrimination](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#)

Full-text links: || [WWW](#)

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## Links to Related Projects

### **The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Informal Economy Resource Database:**

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/infoecon/iebrowse.home>

The Informal Economy Resource Database contains a myriad of ILO activities, research or tools directly or indirectly related to the informal economy and decent work. This source is a "living" and dynamic inventory of information on labour issues relating to the informal economy, such as access to finance, data and statistics, employment, gender equality, policy, rights, social protection and working conditions. It is a valuable tool for anyone undertaking research or working on labour issues and the informal economy.

### **International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conditions of Work and Employment Laws**

<http://www.ilo.org/travdatabase>

The Program maintains a Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws, which provides information on laws from around the world. The database covers measures on minimum wages, working hours and holidays, and maternity protection and provides information on around 130 countries from all regions.

### **Asian Law Center: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alc/bibliography/browse.asp?s=45>**

The Asian Law Centre, an initiative of the University of Melbourne Law School, devoted to the development of understanding of Asian law, offers an extensive bibliography of Asian labor law articles and reports.

### **Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/celrl/>**

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law is a research and teaching center devoted to the development of an understanding of labor law at the University of Melbourne. The Center's website describes the activities of the Center and contains links to several databases that are of interest to labor law scholars and practitioners. For example, the Center's Work Relations Law Project contains extensive information about Australian labor law that can be accessed directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/industrial/>.

### **ETUI Labourline: <http://www.labourline.org/Etui>**

ETUI Labourline is a database of European labor information resources covering European, international and comparative aspects of industrial relations and health and safety issues, developed by the Documentation Centres of the European Trade Union Institute and the European Trade Union Institute for Health and Safety(Brussels). The consolidated bibliographic database contains more than 20,000 references to documents focusing on industrial relations, and more than 15,000 references to documents on health and safety issues.

**Globalization Bulletin:** <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dbensman/bulletin.html>

The Globalization Bulletin is a weekly e-newsletter providing linked access to the latest articles, research, and web resources on a range of global labor issues—ranging from union organizing and labor markets to immigrations and trade agreements. The Bulletin is produced by the Globalization Task Force of the New Jersey Division of the United Nations Association-USA and the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. To subscribe, email David Bensman at [dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu).

**International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal:**

<http://www.business.curtin.edu.au/business/research/journals/international-journal-of-social-security-and-workers-compensation>

The International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal is an on-line journal that focuses on international scholarship in the areas of social security, workers compensation, and occupational health, and disability support. It is published by the School of Business Law, Curtin Institute of Technology in Perth Australia. The IJSSWC contains inter-disciplinary articles in fields such as law, occupational medicine, health economics, and disability studies.

**Labor and Global Change Database:** <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lagn/>

The Labor and Global Change Database provides bibliographies, citation information and (where available) web links to the full text of research exploring connections between labor and globalization. The database aims to provide researchers with an easy means to make the results of their work widely available to other scholars and the interested public. The database is run by and continually updated by the Labor and Global Change Program of the University of Michigan.

**LabourWeb:** <http://www.lex.unict.it/eurolabor/en/>

The Labour Web is a comprehensive documentation center for information about European labor law, social law, industrial relations and the welfare state. It contains up-to-date versions of European Union law, directives, pending directives, EU news, press releases, economic statistics and decisions of the European Court of Justice. It also contains a Working Papers series and subject matter reports (dossiers) on issues concerning European integration. The site also provides links to other websites that contain working papers, statistical reports, and other information about social, economic and industrial relations affairs in the European context. It is run by the Massimo D'Antona Centre for the Study of European Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Catania.

**The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies:**

<http://www.csmb.unimo.it>

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, functions as policy resource center on comparative labor issues. Besides publishing books and law journals, the Center provides a clearinghouse of international law journals, including the International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial

Relations (<http://www.csmb.unimo.it/journal.html>). Currently only in Italian, the Center's website will soon offer an English version.

**Trade Unions and Labor Relations Database:**

[http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/db\\_unions](http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/db_unions)

The database, produced by the Center of Labor Relations of the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie University Berlin, contains over 7,000 citations of books, articles, working papers, brochures, proceedings, etc. The bulk of the citations address aspects of labor relations in Germany and the EU, but there is a substantial body of literature in the database covering global labor issues as well.

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*Project Director:*

[Katherine V.W. Stone](#)

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