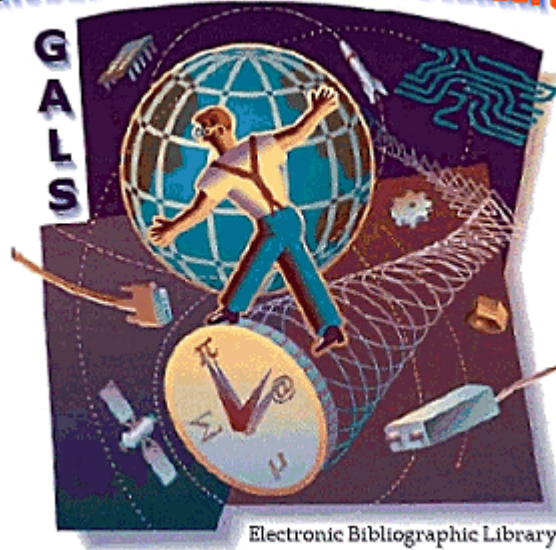


Globalization and Labor Standards



GALS Newsletter

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Katherine V.W. Stone – Editor and Project Director

Student Editor:
Nayla Wren

Student Contributors:
David Winston
Kara Ellison
Emerson Luke

Tech Advisor:
Scott MacKnight

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Country Specific Case Study: South Africa

Malherbe, Kitty, “Retirement Reform in South Africa: The Influence of International Social Security Standards and Human Rights Instruments”, The International Journal of

Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations v. 29, (2013) p. 105-128**Abstract:**

This article examines the social security system in South Africa, namely its three-tiered system of (1) non-contributory social assistance benefits payable to older persons, (2) occupational retirement funds and (3) private retirement savings vehicles. The author reveals problems within South Africa's current structure, such as the lack of coordination between the older person's grant and the various occupational retirement funds. The author discusses some proposals for reform. In particular, she describes a proposed reform that attempts to base the social security system on the principle of social solidarity of intergenerational contribution. This reform further seeks to establish a nexus between older person's grants and neoliberal ideas of private retirement funds in order to make the most efficient use of the state's limited funds while satisfying its constitutional obligation to have a social security system in place.

Subjects: [Pensions](#), [Social and Economic Rights](#),
[Country Specific Case Studies](#)

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

World Trade Organization

Chartres, Renee & Bryan Mercurio, "A Call for an Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Labor: Why and How the WTO Should Play a Role in Upholding Core Labor Standards", North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation, v. 37 (Spring 2012) p. 665-724

Abstract:

This article argues that the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an appropriate body to enforce core labor standards (CLS). It takes issue with the conventional view that this function should solely be in the purview of the International Labour Organization (ILO). In order to establish this claim, the authors contend that CLS and trade are inextricably linked, and reject the argument that the incorporation of CLS into the purview of the WTO would be antithetical to its the mission of helping to facilitate free trade. For example, they point out that the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and the WTO were established to advance human welfare, and thus incorporating CLS into the mission of the WTO would not be inconsistent. They further argue that developed member countries of the WTO are already agree with the notion that CLS and trade are linked. They propose four criteria by which a CLS should be incorporated into the mission of the WTO.

Subjects: [World Trade Organization](#),
[International Labour Organization](#),
[NAFTA/GATT](#)

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

Child Labor

Baradaran, Shima & Stephanie Barclay, "Fair Trade and Child Labor, Columbia Human Rights Law Review", v.43 (Fall, 2011) p. 1-63

Abstract:

Amid multiple proposed solutions to address the child labor phenomenon, this article posits that fair trade is the most viable solution. In making this claim, the authors outline some of the root causes of child labor like poverty and market conditions in the globalized economy. They suggest that attempts to eliminate child labor through measures such as economic sanctions and penalties, boycotts of goods produced through child labor, and domestic prosecution of child labor have failed because they do not target the root causes of child labor. Fair trade, they argue, relies on market incentives, and through private monitoring, it can effectively punish companies that do not comply with child labor standards. Fair trade is voluntary and private. As a result, fair trade can address the child labor phenomenon in a more comprehensive way because it will generate increased incomes, better working conditions, health, and more educational opportunities.

Subjects: [Child Labor](#), [Globalization](#), [Social and Economic Rights](#)

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

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/celr/>

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.

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

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:

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