Academic workers in crisis: Organisation in the post-pandemic university

Volume 18 No 1 Spring 2024
The globalisation of world trade in combination with the use of information and communication technologies is bringing into being a new international division of labour, not just in manufacturing industry, as in the past, but also in work involving the processing of information.

Organisational restructuring shatters the unity of the traditional workplace, both contractually and spatially, dispersing work across the globe in ever more attenuated value chains.

A new ‘cybertariat’ is in the making, sharing common labour processes, but working in remote offices and call centres which may be continents apart and occupying very different cultural and economic places in local economies.

The implications of this are far-reaching, both for policy and for scholarship. The dynamics of this new global division of labour cannot be captured adequately within the framework of any single academic discipline. On the contrary they can only be understood in the light of a combination of insights from fields including political economy, the sociology of work, organisational theory, economic geography, development studies, industrial relations, comparative social policy, communications studies, technology policy and gender studies.

Work organisation, labour and globalisation aims to:

- bring together insights from all of these fields to create a single authoritative source of information on the new global division of labour, combining theoretical analysis with the results of empirical research in a way that is accessible both to the research community and to policy makers;
- provide a single home for articles which specifically address issues relating to the changing international division of labour and the restructuring of work in a global knowledge-based economy;
- bring together the results of empirical research, both qualitative and quantitative, with theoretical analyses in order to inform the development of new interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the restructuring of work, organisation and labour in a global context;
- be global in scope, with a particular emphasis on attracting contributions from developing countries as well as from Europe, North America and other developed regions;
- encourage a dialogue between university-based researchers and their counterparts in international and national government agencies, independent research institutes, trade unions and civil society as well as policy makers. Subject to the requirements of scholarly peer review, it is open to submissions from contributors working outside the academic sphere and encourages an accessible style of writing in order to facilitate this goal;
- complement, rather than compete with existing discipline-based journals;
- bring to the attention of English-speaking readers relevant articles originally published in other languages.

The editor welcomes comments, criticisms, contributions and suggestions for future themes. For further information, visit the website: wolg.wordpress.com.
Editorial board

Work organisation, labour and globalisation is edited by Ursula Huws, director of Analytica Social and Economic Research, UK. The editorial board includes:

Ludmila Abilio, Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre for Labour and Trade Union Studies, University of Campinas, Brazil
Moritz Altenried, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of European Ethnology, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
Ricardo Antunes, Professor of Sociology at University of Campinas, Brazil
Chris Bennet, Department of Community Development, University of California, Davis, USA
Michael Brookes, Professor of Marketing and Management, University of Southern Denmark
Enda Brophy, Emeritus Professor, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Manuel Castells, Emeritus Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Mikyung Chin, Department of Political Science, Ajou University, Korea
Nicole Cohen, Associate Professor, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, University of Toronto, Canada
Premilla D'Cruz, Professor of Organizational Behaviour, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India
Jörg Flecker, Professor of Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria
Brian Garvey, Lecturer in Work, Employment and Organisation, University of Strathclyde, UK
Sujata Gothoskar, Programme Officer, Committee for Asian Women and Researcher, International Union of Foodworkers, Mumbai, India
Mark Graham, Professor of Internet Geography, Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University, UK
Barbara Harriss-White, Emeritus professor, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University, UK
Christoph Hermann, Lecturer, Sociology Department, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Tsvetelina Hristova, Teaching Fellow in Global Media Management, University of Southampton, UK.
Greti-Julia Ivana, lecturer in Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK
Anne Jourdain, Université Paris-Dauphine, France
Eleni Kambouri, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Gender Studies, Panteion University of Social and Political Science, Athens, Greece
Vassil Kirov, Institute of Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria
Bettina-Johanna Klings, Head of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis Unit, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
Wing-Fai Leung, Director of Research, Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries, King's College London, UK
Tatiana Mazali, Researcher, Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Polytechnic of Torino, Italy
Pamela Meil, Institut für Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung (ISF), Germany
George Morgan, Associate Professor, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia
Vincent Mosco, Emeritus professor, Queens University, Canada
Rajneesh Narula, Professor of International Business Regulation, University of Reading Business School, UK
Manuel Nicklich, Researcher, Nuremberg Campus of Technology (NCT) at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany.
Maurilio Pirone, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Bologna, Italy
Sabine Pfeiffer, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany
Jaka Primorac, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Development and International Relations, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Markus Promberger, Head of Welfare, Labour and Social Inclusion Research, IAB (Institute for Employment Research), Federal Employment Agency, Germany
Monique Ramioul, Head of Work, Organisation and Social Dialogue, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
Ned Rossiter, Professor of Communication, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University, Australia
Neil Spencer, Professor of Applied Statistics, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK
Paul Stewart, Senior Research Professor, Sociology of Work and Employment, Département, Homme Organisation et Société, Grenoble School of Management, France
Aditi Surie, Consultant, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, India
Geert van Hootegem, Professor of Sociology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Patricia Vendramin, Professor of Sociology, University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Contents

Academic workers in crisis: organisation in the post-pandemic university
Tsvetelina Hristova 7

Beyond the limits of solidarity in the post-pandemic university
Richard Hall 13

Enhancement or impoverishment? Algorithmic management and ‘distance’ education during the pandemic. Theoretical and interpretive hypotheses
Emiliana Armano, Andrea Cavazzini and Rosanna Maccarone 31

Organising the labour of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canadian universities
Mara De Giusti Bordignon, Melody Viczko and Renata Matsumoto 44

EdTech-mediated outsourcing and casualisation of academic labour: Toward a research agenda
Mariya Ivancheva and Aline Courtois 65

Employment regulation as the warm house for neoliberalism?
Comparing higher education in France and the UK
Heather Connolly and Paul Stewart 83

Algorithmic violence: Towards an interdisciplinary understanding of bullying in academia
Three anonymous authors and Ursula Huws 97