
WORK ORGANISATION, LABOUR AND GLOBALISATION

Announcing a new journal

The globalisation of world trade in combination with the use of information and communications technologies is bringing about 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. But precisely because of this need for interdisciplinarity, the subject is poorly researched and what little evidence there is can only be found scattered across a range of different journals, none of which is likely to be read by more than a small subset of those with an interest in the topic.

Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation aims to:

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 the 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 and civil society as well as policy makers. Subject to the requirements of scholarly peer review, it will be open to submissions from contributors working outside the

academic sphere and will encourage an accessible style of writing in order to facilitate this goal.

Negotiations with publishers are still ongoing but it is anticipated that the journal will be published twice a year, and made available by subscription (both in hard copy and electronic format) as well as through bookshops.

Though legally autonomous, during the first four years of its life the journal will be closely linked to the EU-funded project WORKS (Work Organisation Restructuring in a Knowledge-Based Society) which will be launched in 2005. The project will be organising two major international conferences, in 2006 and 2008, the papers from which will form the basis for two issues.

An international editorial committee will be set up to make suggestions for contributors and referees, act as a sounding board for new ideas and generally oversee the work of the journal. In addition to this role, committee members will also be invited to attend and contribute to the two WORKS conferences and provide a form of external peer review for the project's work. The composition of this committee will be designed to ensure a broad representation of academic disciplines as well as global geographical regions and to include representatives of key policy stakeholder groups as well as academics.

The journal will be edited by Ursula Huws, Professor of International Labour Studies at the Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University, supported by a Management Board whose membership coincides with the Scientific Board of the WORKS project, consisting of: Jörg Flecker, Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Arbeitswelt (FORBA), Vienna; Pamela Meil, Institut für Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung (ISF), Munich; Monique Ramioul, Hoger Instituut voor de Arbeid (HIVA), Catholic University of Leuven, and Gérard Valenduc, Fondation Travail-Université (FTU), University of Namur.

It is hoped that the journal will achieve sufficient support to ensure its independent survival after the completion of the WORKS project in 2008.

For further information about *Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation*, contact Ursula Huws on analytica@dial.pipex.com