

ILR Review Special Series: CALL FOR PAPERS

Work, Labor, and Employment Relations in the COVID-19 Era

Series Editor, Bruce Weinberg (weinberg.27@osu.edu)

The *ILR Review* is launching a special article series on Work, Labor, and Employment Relations in the COVID-19 era. We are calling for papers that address pressing labor questions that have emerged in the context of the current global crises: the public health pandemic, deep economic recession, and explosive social upheaval.

Note: This call for papers is ongoing. We expect the current crises to have lasting effects. We will accept submissions on a rolling basis. There is no special issue deadline.

For these time-sensitive papers, we will expedite the review process to ensure timely publication online and in our hard copy issues. They will be identified as part of this special series.

In addition, we will promote the findings of these articles through media outlets and social media networks.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the field of Industrial Relations. While many things have changed, many have not. The “labor question” was central then and remains so: important before the COVID-19 pandemic, and more important since.

Today, as levels of inequality reflect those of 100 years ago, solving the labor question is central to creating and sustaining a democratic society based on broad-based prosperity. Heightened inequality and institutionalized racism, exacerbated by the pandemic and economic recession, have re-ignited labor militancy and mass mobilizations.

We are particularly interested in research that addresses such issues as:

- Employment and labor market effects of the current crises
- Impact of COVID-19 on collective bargaining relationships
- Differential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on workers and working families based on race, ethnicity, gender, occupation, industry, and socioeconomic class or position
- Effects of COVID-19 on employment and labor markets through increased childcare responsibilities and especially how they may increase existing disparities
- Comparative international perspectives on the effectiveness of regulatory responses to the public health, economic, and social crises
- Firm strategies and policies in response to these crises, such as the reorganization of work and technology, the use of alternative work arrangements, domestic outsourcing, and global production networks, especially those likely to have lasting implications
- Union and social movement strategies and policies to mitigate the unequal effects of the current crises on people across social and class divides

- Comparative institutional perspectives on existing or innovative regulations that are more or less effective in mitigating the effects of these crises on working people and families
- Implications for the future workforce, including human capital formation

In this time of great upheaval and uncertainty, labor research is more important than ever. We are calling on our community to leverage the understanding that labor researchers have developed to help solve real-world problems—in the United States and around the world. As scholars with expertise in a wide range of social science specialties, we have the opportunity to produce evidence-based research to advance theory and inform public policy at this critical juncture.

We encourage researchers from all disciplines to contribute their unique perspectives, from anthropology, sociology, political science, and psychology to history, industrial relations, law, and economics.

We also welcome research using a broad range of methods—ethnographic, experimental, archival, legal, qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods—as no one method is sufficient to document the widespread changes that are occurring.

Authors who would like their papers considered for publication in this series should submit them through [our online manuscript submission portal](#) and, when prompted, choose the “special issue” button and type “COVID-19 Labor Series.”

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