

Special Issue on

**Public, Private, and Social Labor Governance in Global Production:
Connections, Intersections, and Spillovers across Arenas and Issue Fields**

The [ILR Review](#) invites submissions for a special issue devoted to public, private, and social labor governance in global production focusing on connections, intersections, and spillovers across arenas and issue fields.

A striking paradox is evident in labor governance in global production: Despite a growing array of public, private, and social regulatory initiatives, violations of labor rights and other social and environmental standards remain pervasive. Over the past three decades, academic work has flourished in this area, particularly regarding private regulation based on codes of conduct and social auditing (Locke 2013), often set by multi-stakeholder initiatives (Bakker et al. 2019). As the severe limits of private regulation have been laid bare (Kuruvilla 2021), however, we have seen a renewed interest in social and public governance (Anner 2021). Social governance includes union-driven efforts such as global framework agreements (Helfen and Fichter 2013; Bourguignon et al. 2020) and collective binding agreements, notably the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety (Donaghey and Reinecke 2018; Oka et al. 2020). Social governance also includes worker-driven initiatives such as the Fair Food Program (Rosile et al. 2021) and other multi-party bargaining models (Blasi and Bair 2019). Meanwhile, we have seen a revival in “hard” legal instruments to regulate global production including social clauses in trade agreements (Marslev and Staritz 2023) and mandatory legislation (LeBaron and Rühmkorf 2017).

Yet much remains unknown and unexplained about how various actors and forms of regulation may intersect at different levels and shape labor conditions on the ground. To date, some scholars have examined how private, public, and/or social mechanisms may intersect during policy formation (Burgoon and Fransen 2018; Amengual and Bartley 2022), on the ground (Amengual and Chirot 2016; Bair et al. 2020), and across countries (Distelhorst et al. 2015; Short et al. 2020). Others have focused on the network and micro-level interactions at headquarters among Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) managers (Schüßler et al. 2022), audit firms (Fransen and LeBaron 2019), and investors (Monciardini and Conaldi 2019), as well as alliances and networks of unions (Lévesque and Murray 2010), civil society organizations (Zajak 2017), sourcing agents (Soundararajan and Brammer 2018), and social auditors at the point of production (Raj-Reichert 2020).

Despite some promising work in the area, we still know relatively little regarding how actors interact and strategize within and across arenas and issue fields to regulate global production (Bartley 2018; Haipeter et al. 2021). Recently, scholars have started to delve into spillovers across regulatory initiatives (Ashwin et al. 2020) as well as connections between global and local levels

(Reinecke and Donaghey 2021). This special issue seeks to galvanize such efforts and advance our knowledge on the connections, intersections, and spillovers across arenas as well as issue fields (Fligstein and McAdam 2012).

Various attempts to examine and theorize about these phenomena have been scattered across disciplines. We believe that cross-fertilization of various research traditions in social science and management should give us clearer and deeper insights into the realities of connections, intersections, and spillovers surrounding regulation of global production. In this special issue, therefore, we welcome theoretical and empirical contributions from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, covering micro, mezzo, and/or macro levels of analysis.

Potential topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ What are the mechanisms and processes that help overcome the limitations of single regulatory instruments?
- ❖ How do the institutional and organizational properties of arenas and issue fields influence each other across time and place? For example, how is the field of mandatory due diligence regulation shaped by and shaping the field of social auditing and vice versa?
- ❖ What are the potential limits and/or unintended consequences of connections and spillovers across arenas and issue fields? Does one complement or substitute the other?
- ❖ What facilitates or obstructs connections or spillovers across arenas and issue fields? For instance, what is the role of social networks of engaged individuals and the communities of professionals?
- ❖ How do actors—state, business, unions, civil society, and other organizations—make sense of public, private, and social regulatory instruments, and how do they make use of various instruments to advance goals in their field?
- ❖ How can regulatory initiatives emanating from consuming countries be more relevant to workers at the point of production?
- ❖ How does policy at headquarters translate to practice on the ground? What effects have regulatory mechanisms had on worker outcomes? How do intermediary organizations enter the picture?

Scholars interested in contributing to the special issue should submit an abstract (about 1,000 words) by **December 17, 2023**. Authors will be notified in January 2024 if their abstract has been accepted for presentation at the workshop in spring 2024. A subset of authors will be asked to submit their papers to the *ILR Review* in fall 2024, with the expectation that their papers will be published in a special issue if they pass the external review process. Papers that are deemed of good quality but not selected for the special issue may be considered for publication in a regular issue of the journal. Prospective contributors are urged to consult any of the guest editors regarding preliminary proposals or ideas for papers.

To submit your abstract for consideration, please e-attach the abstract file to an e-mail and send to Chikako Oka at chikako.oka@u-pec.fr.

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