

Editorial

Delving into the past – Looking to the future

Tzehainesh TEKLÈ

The *International Labour Review* (ILR) traces its roots back to the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which marked the end of the First World War and founded the ILO. The journal was then established by a decision of the ILO Governing Body in 1921 and the ILR was published for the first time that year.

Since then it has become an established peer-reviewed academic journal in employment and labour studies characterized by its unique identity, arising from its multidisciplinary and global scope, and by its international reach, facilitated by its publication in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

To celebrate its centenary, we are publishing a virtual Centenary Collection that showcases the history of the ILR and highlights its contribution to academic and policy debates relating to the world of work.

The Collection contains one dedicated article and various “Centenary Issues”. The article explores the history of the ILR, while the Centenary Issues deal with recurring themes throughout the ILR’s volumes that are still of great importance internationally. These issues feature selections of some of the most significant contributions made by the ILR, at different points in its history, to the global debate on the themes in question. Each issue opens with an introduction by its guest editor(s) that contextualizes the selected articles for each theme within the wider scholarly literature and policy discussions.

Among the guest editors and authors featured in this Centenary Collection, we are proud and fortunate to include members of the ILR Editorial Board, ILR Editorial Advisers and other world-renowned scholars from different disciplines and regions of the world.

The themes of the Centenary Issues have been selected in concertation with the members of the ILR Editorial Board: Peter Doeringer, Werner Eichhorst, Jayati Ghosh, Adriana Marshall, Dominique Méda, Guy Mundlak and Uma Rani. In line with the ILR’s mission, this selection has sought to represent a large and diverse set of issues and perspectives, concerning both the global North and the global South. In pursuing this aim, we have relied

on the collaboration of Dorothea Hoehtker, a historian in the ILO Research Department. Her in-depth background research work has helped identify recurring themes in the ILR and the relevant articles for the respective guest editors' final selection.

This publication project has also benefited from the support of Rick Samans (Director of the ILO Research Department and Chair of the Editorial Board) and Maria Luz Vega (Senior Adviser to the ILO Research Department).

The original contributions to the Centenary Collection have been edited in English by Manfred Boemeke, translated into French by Dominique Leveillé and Patrick Bollé and translated into Spanish by Marta Pino Moreno. Judy Rafferty assisted in the coordination of the production process.

It is our hope that this Centenary Collection will provide not only a long-lasting reference for those interested in exploring the history of the ILR and in its discussion of topical themes over the years but also a valuable intellectual resource when thinking about the present and the future of work.

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