



## EDITOR'S NOTE

We are pleased to introduce the latest issue of *Labour, Capital and Society* and to thank the many people who have made it possible. While not a thematic issue, the articles nonetheless address several contemporary aspects of the changing nature of capital and its organization at key levels of practice, ranging from the abstract to the more detailed.

The issue begins with a broad discussion of the nature of Empire, the American state and the contemporary global order by Dan O'Meara. His alternative account addresses some of the most fundamental issues in our attempts to come to terms with the changing conduct of US domestic and foreign policy, not only post-Iraq, but within the context of a uni-polar global order. In so doing he addresses the significant literature on the issue of Empire and provides important insights into the changing nature of capital and especially what seem to be new patterns of global capital accumulation.

This is followed by an examination of changes at the level of global institutional practices and discourse within the development regime as Arne Ruckert questions the extent to which the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have significantly moved away from neoliberal policy practices in the wake of their proclamation of a Post-Washington consensus. By looking at the different responses to these changes, and by contrasting structural adjustment policies with the poverty-reduction strategies, Ruckert maintains there is an emergence of an inclusive-neoliberalism shaping the Comprehensive Development Framework, yet it has its own ambiguities.

Monina Wong presents the first of two case studies of new labour practices in light of global capitalism. After analyzing changing labour relations in China, she follows Chinese capital into Mauritius and Namibia as it invests in the garment sectors in order to benefit from the preferential access of African manufactured products into the US market as part of the AGOA Treaty. Most significantly, she documents the number of Asian workers who have migrated to these areas at the same time, especially Chinese workers who are now part of the globalized labour market as a result of international dispatching. She argues that these workers' struggles might finally reunite Chinese workers with the



international labour movement. At the same time however, she provides a compelling example of the myth of job creation that accompanies the establishment of export-processing zones as she describes the way in which capital uses one group of workers against another to make it virtually impossible to improve wages and working conditions while in the end creating few local employment opportunities.

Finally, Benedict Imbun provides another example of current labour practices as he demonstrates employment relations developed by multinational mining companies operating in newly-producing areas in Papua New Guinea in proximity to indigenous communities. He demonstrates some of the techniques used, and challenges faced, by mining companies as they penetrate into areas in which local populations are engaged in subsistence production and have had little or no prior experience of proletarianization. The extensive fieldwork reflected in this study demonstrates management's manipulation of cooperation and conflict in its relations with both workers and communities. It thus provides a useful example of mining company responses to the growing criticism they face as they increasingly undertake activities on lands inhabited by indigenous communities.

As usual these articles are followed by several book reviews as well this time by a review essay on labour, states and social policies in a globalizing era.

Our thanks are extended to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the President of Saint Mary's University, Dr. Colin Dodds, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Arts, and to the International Development Studies Programme for their financial contributions. We also extend special thanks to Dr. Keith Vaughan for his pictures of Indian workers that appear on the cover page. A heartfelt thanks to the many assistants who worked on different aspects of this issue: Kristen Winters, Mehjabeen Alarakhia, Modeste Mba Talla and Sunjoyo Tanto who copy edited, did lay-out, translations and reorganized our database.

Suzanne Dansereau PhD.  
Editor