GENDERING STRUGGLES AGAINST INFORMAL AND PRECARIOUS WORK

POLITICAL POWER AND SOCIAL THEORY

Series Editor: Julian Go

Political Power and Social Theory is a peer-reviewed journal committed to advancing the interdisciplinary understanding of the linkages between political power, social relations, and historical development. The journal welcomes both empirical and theoretical work and is willing to consider papers of substantial length. Publication decisions are made by the editor in consultation with the members of the editorial board and anonymous reviewers. For information on submissions and a full list of volumes, please visit the journal website at www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/tk/ppst

Recent Volumes:

Volume 22:	Rethinking Obama: 2011
Volume 23:	Political Power and Social Theory: 2012
Volume 24:	Postcolonial Sociology: 2013
Volume 25:	Decentering Social Theory: 2013
Volume 26:	The United States in Decline: 2014
Volume 27:	Fields of Knowledge: Science, Politics and Publics in the Neoliberal Age: 2014
Volume 28:	Patrimonial Capitalism and Empire: 2015
Volume 29:	Chartering Capitalism: Organizing Markets, States, and Publics: 2015
Volume 30:	Perverse Politics? Feminism, Anti-Imperialism, Multiplicity: 2016
Volume 31:	Postcolonial Sociologies: A Reader: 2016
Volume 32:	International Origins of Social and Political Theory: 2017
Volume 33:	Rethinking the Colonial State: 2017
Volume 34:	Critical Realism, History, and Philosophy in the Social Sciences: 2018

SENIOR EDITORIAL BOARD

Ronald Aminzade University of Minnesota

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva Duke University

Michael Burawoy University of California-Berkeley

Nitsan Chorev Brown University

Diane E. Davis Harvard University

Peter Evans University of California-Berkeley

Julian Go Boston University Eiko Ikegami New School University Graduate Faculty

Howard Kimeldorf University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

George Lawson London School of Economics

Daniel Slater University of Michigan

George Steinmetz University of Michigan

Maurice Zeitlin University of California-Los Angeles

STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD

Ladin Bayurgil Boston University

Emily Bryant Boston University

Rebecca Farber Boston University Patricia Ward Boston University

Jake Watson Boston University

Alexandre White *Boston University* POLITICAL POWER AND SOCIAL THEORY VOLUME 35

GENDERING STRUGGLES AGAINST INFORMAL AND PRECARIOUS WORK

EDITED BY

RINA AGARWALA

Johns Hopkins University, USA

JENNIFER JIHYE CHUN

University of California-Los Angeles, USA



United Kingdom – North America – Japan India – Malaysia – China Emerald Publishing Limited Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2019

Copyright © 2019 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78769-368-5 (Print) ISBN: 978-1-78769-367-8 (Online) ISBN: 978-1-78769-369-2 (Epub)

ISSN: 0198-8719 (Series)



ISOQAR certified Management System, awarded to Emerald for adherence to Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004.



Certificate Number 1985 ISO 14001

CONTENTS

About the Authors	xi
Gendering Struggles Against Informal and Precarious Work Rina Agarwala and Jennifer Jihye Chun	1
From Theory to Praxis and Back to Theory: Informal Workers' Struggles Against Capitalism and Patriarchy in India <i>Rina Agarwala</i>	29
Low-wage Worker Organizing and Advocacy in the USA: Comparing Domestic Workers and Day Laborers Ruth Milkman	59
Masculine Vulnerabilities: The Double Bind of Manhood in Global Migration <i>SaunJuhi Verma</i>	77
Organizing Filipina Domestic Workers in Vancouver, Canada: Gendered Geographies and Community Mobilization <i>Geraldine Pratt with Migrante BC</i>	101
Intersectional Histories, Overdetermined Fortunes: Understanding Mexican and US Domestic Worker Movements Chris Tilly, Georgina Rojas-García and Nik Theodore	121
Feminist Entanglements With the Neoliberal Welfare State: NGOs and Domestic Worker Organizing in South Korea Jennifer Jihye Chun and Yang-Sook Kim	147
Index	169

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Rina Agarwala is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University, USA. She publishes and lectures on international development, labor, migration, gender, social movements, and Indian politics. She is the author of *Informal Labor, Formal Politics and Dignified Discontent in India* and the co-author of *Whatever Happened to Class? Reflections from South Asia.*

Jennifer Jihye Chun is an Associate Professor in Asian American Studies and the International Institute at University of California, Los Angeles, USA. She is the author of *Organizing at the Margins: The Symbolic Politics of Labor in South Korea and the United States* and is writing a book on public cultures of protest in South Korea.

Yang-Sook Kim is a doctoral student in Sociology at the University of Toronto, Canada. Drawing on ethnographic data from South Korea and the United States, her dissertation explores how workers navigate their ways of survival in increasingly marketized care sectors, focusing on the nexus of gender, migration, ethnicity, and care work.

Migrante BC is a community-based, multi-sectoral organization committed to the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of Filipino immigrants and migrant workers in British Columbia, Canada. It is part of a network of groups in Canada (Migrante Canada) and around the world (Migrante International).

Ruth Milkman is a Distinguished Professor of Labor and Labor Movements at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, USA. Her scholarship focuses on work and organized labor in the United States, both in the past and present. Her most recent book is *On Labor, Gender and Inequality* (Illinois, 2016). She has published extensively on low-wage immigrant workers, analyzing their employment conditions as well as the dynamics of immigrant labor organizing.

Geraldine Pratt is a Professor of Geography at University of British Columbia, Canada. She is the author of *Working Feminism* (2004) and *Families Apart: Migrant Mothers and the Conflicts of Labor and Love* (2012) and the co-editor of *The Global and the Intimate* (2012). She has co-written two plays pertaining to Filipino domestic workers in Canada (*Nanay* and *Tlingipino Bingo*).

Georgina Rojas-García is a Professor at CIESAS, Mexico. Her research interests include economic restructuring and labor, paid domestic work, and informal workers organizing. With Mónica Toledo, she recently published *Paid Domestic*

Work: Gender and the Informal Economy in Mexico in Latin American Perspectives.

Nik Theodore is a Professor of Urban Planning and Policy and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA. His current research pursuits include the study of urban informal economies, low-wage labor markets, and worker organizing.

Chris Tilly is a Professor of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA. He studies labor and inequality in the United States and globally, focusing on bad jobs and how to make them better. His publications include *Stories Employers Tell: Race, Skill, and Hiring in America* and *Where Bad Jobs Are Better: Retail Jobs across Countries and Companies.*

SaunJuhi Verma is an Assistant Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Rutgers, the State University of New York, USA. As a Fulbright scholar, Dr Verma's research has centered upon questions of immigration to evaluate the global forms of labor inequality. Her publication record includes academic journals, media outlets, and two forthcoming book manuscripts, including *Captive Labor: Political Exile in the Age of Global Migrant Markets.*