

Welcome to this year's Perspectives on Work

This issue features a range of writings by fellow LERA members reflective of the challenges and opportunities in the domestic and global work world created by the year's disruptions.

The term "essential workers" entered the lexicon and the nation's consciousness. Joe Biden has been characterized as the most pro-labor president, at least since FDR. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh was the headliner at the 73rd Annual Meeting.

Several LERA Executive Board members have entered — or are nominated to enter — the Biden administration. Heather Boushey is on the Council of Economic Advisers and is a frequent media spokesperson for the administration. David Weil and Javier Ramirez at this writing await Senate confirmation as Department of Labor Wage and Hour Administrator and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director, respectively.



This issue includes articles exploring the impact and lessons of COVID-19 — on care services, on public sector collective bargaining, and

on global supply chains, garment manufacturers, and workers. Others examine private equity and the health care industry, early childhood care and education needs and policy, the rise and fall of Maine's paper industry, and the state of labor in the wake of the Myanmar military coup.

Op-eds consider President Biden as a labor feminist, the pandemic (is it enough?), its lessons for organizational management and employees, economic recovery and the minimum wage, and whether work will really change that much. Book reviews assess labor in the age of finance, influence at work, liberty, cross-border work and industrial relations, the UAW's corruption scandal, and private regulation in global supply chains.

The issue also includes outgoing LERA president Adrienne Eaton's presidential speech and coverage of LERA@ASSA at the ASSA-AEA conference and the 73rd Annual Meeting.

We hope these pieces will stimulate thought and debate!

Wilma B. Liebman, LERA President

Perspectives on Work

2021 – VOLUME 25 THE MAGAZINE OF THE LERA – LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

FEATURES

- 2 The brutal impact of COVID-19 on garment workers *Mark Anner*
- 8 Private equity in health care *Rosemary Batt, Eileen Appelbaum*
- 14 Increasing federal investments in early childhood care and education
Aaron Sojourner
- 20 The care crisis of 2020–21 *Günseli Berik, Ebru Kongar*
- 26 Industrial shredding *Michael G. Hillard*
- 32 The digital platform battleground *Maria Figueroa*
- 38 Labor relations in Myanmar *Richard D. Fincher*

OP-EDS

- 42 Will post-pandemic work change much? *John W. Budd*
- 44 Better minimum wage for maximum results *Kate Bahn, Carmen Sanchez Cumming*
- 46 Will Joe Biden be a labor feminist president? *Emily E. LB. Twarog*
- 50 Public sector collective bargaining *Quinton M. Herbert*
- 54 Pandemic lessons for management *Yujie Cai, Chris Rowley*
- 58 Politicization of Catholic Social Teaching *David C. Jacobs*
- 60 Employee health, safety, and well-being *Yaminette Diaz-Linhart*

LERA NEWS

- 62 LERA 73rd Annual Meeting *Mike Lillich*
- 68 Local chapter update *Bill Canak, Bonnie Castrey*
- 70 LERA interest sections and industry councils *Mark D. Gough, Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld*
- 74 LERA@ASSA: Conferencing virtually *Mike Lillich*
- 78 A teachable moment? *William Spriggs*
- 82 Presidential address *Adrienne Eaton*

BOOK REVIEWS

- 90 Labor in the Age of Finance *Sanford M. Jacoby, reviewer Nathan Wilmers*
- 92 The UAW *Frank Goeddeke Jr., Marick F. Masters, reviewer Beverly E. Harrison*
- 94 Crossing Boundaries *Russell D. Lansbury, reviewer Peter Berg*
- 96 Power, Politics and Influence at Work *Tony Dundon et al., reviewer Virginia Doellgast*
- 98 Private Regulation of Labor Standards in Global Supply Chains
Sarosh Kuruvilla, reviewer Anil Verma
- 100 In the Name of Liberty *Mark R. Reiff, reviewer Alexis N. Walker*
- 103 2021 LERA Research Volume: Revaluing Work(ers): Toward a Democratic and Sustainable Future *T. Schulze-Cleven, T. E. Vachon, editors*



Perspectives on Work is a publication of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. Comments, letters, and suggestions for articles may be sent to Emily Smith, Executive Director, at eesmith@illinois.edu.

ISSN 1534-9276 © 2021 Labor and Employment Relations Association, Champaign, IL. Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

Managing Editor
Bernadette Tiemann
Editor
J. Michael Lillich
Copyeditor
Julie Gay
Designer
Krista Sunderland
Proofreader
Peggy Currid

Copying information
Active LERA members who are educators and wish to copy selected articles for classes may do so at no charge. Please visit the LERA website at www.leraweb.org for information on how to obtain copyright permission. All others seeking permission to reprint an article, please contact the Copyright Clearance Center at www.copyright.com.

Back issues, subscriptions, and address changes
LERA
121 LER Bldg.
504 E. Armory Ave.
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217/333-0072
Email: leraoffice@illinois.edu

Copies may be purchased for \$25 each; for classroom use, prices are \$12 each with a 10-copy minimum purchase.

Advertising
Information on rates, deadlines, and production specifications may be obtained by contacting Bernadette Tiemann, Managing Editor, at btiemann@illinois.edu.
To learn more about LERA
Visit the association's website at www.leraweb.org, or contact the LERA office.