Special Call for a ‘Mini-Conference’ on

**Indigeneity and Work**

as part of the 10th International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) Regional Congress of the Americas

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

June 24th to 27th, 2020

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly on September 13, 2007. It addresses and affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples regarding culture, identity, religion, language, health, education and community. In part, it proclaims the right of Indigenous peoples to: full employment, self-determination in the pursuit of economic, social and cultural development, maintain distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions while retaining their right to participate fully in those of the State, and be free from any kind of discrimination in the exercise of their rights.

Within this context, the historical and contemporary work, labour and employment experiences of Indigenous People across the Americas are an important component of self-determination. Visioning the world of work through an Indigenous lens may also present opportunities to re-think or re-evaluate our colonial institutional structures.

There is a growing body of research about the impact of colonialism on traditional Indigenous communities and their economies and the nature and outcomes of the integration of Indigenous Peoples into capitalist economies. For instance, research has focused on differential labour market participation and employment outcomes (i.e., Hossian & Lamb, 2019; Kinfu, Taylor & Hunter, 2004; Lamb, 2013; MacKinnon, 2015), the experience of Indigenous People in resource development projects (i.e., Holcombe & Kemp, 2019; Mills, 2019; Mills & Sweeney, 2013; Southcott & Natcher, 2018; Stokes, Marshall & Veiga, 2019), traditional economies (i.e., Dale & Natcher, 2013; Kuokkanen, 2011) and the relationship between Indigenous workers, unions, and the labour movement (i.e., Fernandez & Silver, 2018, Mills & McCreary, 2012). These contributions are dispersed across a wide range of disciplines, yet the topic of indigeneity and work is largely absent in the mainstream industrial and labour relations discourse and journals.

This call for papers seeks to bring together scholars from various backgrounds and perspectives to build a purposive space to discuss issues of indigeneity and work. We welcome contributions from academics, practitioners and community members that address the intersections between indigeneity, indigenous culture and ways of knowing, indigenous geographies and the contemporary landscapes of paid and unpaid labour. These could include:

- Education, training and transition to work programs
- Unpaid labour, social reproduction and traditional cultural practice
- Historical perspectives on the work and labour of Indigenous peoples including colonial impacts
- The experiences of Indigenous People with resource development projects
- Indigenous land and resource reclamation and its impact on work and labour
- Labour market experiences and outcomes of Indigenous People
- Urbanization of Indigenous populations
- Indigenizing and revisioning the workplace – implications for managerial policy & practice, organizational forms, structures and hierarchies and labour & employment law
- Case studies of particular industries, occupations, jobs, Indigenous groups, countries or regions
- Cross-country comparisons of Indigeneity and work

The contributions accepted from this call will be grouped into a set of themed sessions as a ‘mini-conference’ at the International Labor and Employment Relations Association Regional Congress of the Americas with potential for post-conference outcomes.

Participants will have full access to the complete ILERA2020 conference program.

Those wishing to participate in this mini-conference can still be considered for Best Paper Awards and Non-OECD Student Travel Scholarships. Select those submission options. You will have an opportunity to indicate your desire to be included in this mini-conference during the submission process.

**Please submit abstracts (1000 words maximum) by September 15, 2019 at the conference website:**

https://www.ryerson.ca/tedrogersschool/ilera2020/

**Please direct inquiries or ideas to:** Johanna Weststar weststar@uwo.ca

**We look forward to seeing you at ILERA2020!**

Johanna Weststar, DAN Department of Management and Organizational Studies, Western University
Lynn Fernandez, Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Manitoba
Shauna MacKinnon, Department of Urban and Inner City Studies, University of Winnipeg
References


