

Foreword

The world of work and employment relations at work are changing very rapidly, and we are facing ever-growing challenges of protecting labour standards and human rights in workplaces. This situation leads to labour problems for which scholars and policy-makers must provide insights, policy direction and solutions. In 2014, the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) announced a new book series on the emerging themes of comparative labour and employment relations. The reason for creating this series was to stimulate scholars in the employment relations field to conduct research on vital and pressing theoretical and practical issues.

Scholars in labour and employment relations were invited to submit book proposals in English, French or Spanish on any aspects, but preferably with new and emerging themes of labour and employment relations with a comparative emphasis. A Committee of Editors in each of the three languages was established. I have had the honour of serving as Editor-in-Chief, and the editorial members include Annette Jobert (ENS Cachan, France), Cecilia Senén González (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Anil Verma (University of Toronto, Canada). We also created a Publication Committee, which reviewed and will continue to review the book proposals. The members of the Publication Committee include Janice Bellace, John Budd, Adrienne Eaton, Susan Hayter, Suzuki Hiromasa, Evance Kalula, Harry C. Katz and Russell Lansbury. I appreciate the efforts and input of the members of the Committee of Editors and the Publication Committee, who worked tirelessly on reviewing more than a dozen well-written, lengthy proposals and selecting the best among them.

Although this book is published in English, ILERA is going to publish the series in English, French or Spanish, based on the language of the manuscripts received. ILERA plans to publish a book in the ILERA Publication Series every two years. I am glad that we are working on this project with the prestigious publisher Edward Elgar.

I am delighted that we have this very important and timely book as the first contribution to the ILERA Publication Series. As the globalization process intensifies, the resulting immigration creates both opportunities and threats for the immigrants themselves, citizens of host countries,

government administrators in the countries involved, and the international community. Immigration is a difficult issue in both administrative and political senses, because it often occurs beyond the scope of existing legal boundaries and invariably raises issues of human dignity and fundamental labour rights.

Immigration has been receiving ever more attention from academics, policy-makers, members of various international organizations and politicians. By analysing and synthesizing the experiences of 11 European countries, this book describes the emerging employment problems caused by legal and illegal immigration across countries. In addition, by taking a pan-European perspective, it challenges the traditional approach with the employment relations research, which usually focuses on the majority of employees who remain in one country for the length of their employment. The volume therefore brings a new and valuable perspective to the field of employment relations and is a worthy first contribution to the ILERA Publication Series.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the generous support of the International Labour Organization. In particular, I wish to thank Mr Moussa Oumarou for obtaining financial support and Ms Johanna de Vries for her endless managerial endeavours. Without their unwavering commitment, this project would not have been possible. It is my fervent hope that, starting from this book, the ILERA Publication Series will make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the field of international and comparative employment relations.

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