

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the seventeenth issue of the *Journal of Workplace Rights*. The *Journal of Workplace Rights* is dedicated to the proposition that human rights should not be compromised by employers. It uses an expansive definition of human rights based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as passed by the United Nations in 1948. A list of proposed topics can be found on our website. The *Journal* invites prospective authors to submit articles that are completely unrelated to these topics as long as their focus is on workplace rights.

Before I preview this issue's articles, I wish to pay special thanks to the following Editorial Board members who did a terrific job of reviewing them in a timely yet thorough manner: Hamid Akbari, Steve Jaros, and Tom Keenoy. In addition, Ray Hogler and Nisha Nair took time from their very busy schedules to excellently serve as ad hoc reviewers for this issue. And as always, Ann O'Hear provided impeccable manuscript editing service.

The first article is by Jinyun Liu, Lawrence Root, John Beck, and Roland Zullo, and it is entitled, "Creating worker-management committees to promote workers' voice in China." We welcome papers on China because no other country has more workers. The second article, by Robert Roberts, is "The privatization of the public workplace." Our journal will continue to be a home for authors who view civil service working conditions as a right rather than a privilege.

The third article, by Oren Levin-Waldman, is entitled "Wage policy as an essential ingredient in a democratic society." This article is a rallying call for those who continue to fight for increases in the minimum wage. The fourth article, by Alice Bloch and Sonia McKay, is "Hidden dishes—how food gets onto our plates: Undocumented migrants and the restaurant and takeaway sector." This article reminds us that even the most vulnerable workers have some power to demand what they deserve.

The final two articles in this issue constitute our "New Scholars" section. We will never publish an issue without at least one article by a "New Scholar," defined as a student or a professor holding an untenured or non-permanent appointment.

We have published articles by scholars at all career stages, but we feel that New Scholars tend to produce particularly high-quality research, perhaps because they tend to have fewer administrative burdens than their more senior colleagues. Papers by New Scholars go through exactly the same review process as all other papers. The only preferential treatment that New Scholars receive is that they jump to the front of the publication queue so that their papers may be published ahead of those by other authors. The fifth article, by Sohini Basu, is entitled “Gender knowledge of female textile workers in West Bengal.” India is of great interest to our journal because it has so many workers. The final article, by Fabio De Franceschi, is “British and Spanish unions’ responses to relocation and perceptions of solidarity in the automotive sector.” It suggests that unions will be more powerful in a country if they work together across countries.

If you have as much fun reading these articles as I did while editing them, you are in for a very good time indeed. Our plan is to publish at least four issues in each calendar year. So if you want to be published quickly in the world’s most progressive English-language academic journal, please send me your work. Readers with any questions about this journal should contact me electronically at jwr@rowan.edu

Joel Rudin
Editor