The twenty-first century has posed serious challenges to workers—formal and informal, organized and unorganized—around the world. It has also brought to the fore extraordinarily creative responses, forcing us to think beyond our common understandings of “labour”, effective trade union strategies and forms of power.

Challenging the global North’s dominance in the literature, this publication presents alternative approaches as well as creative responses to the challenges facing labour in the global South, in countries such as Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, South Africa and Uruguay. The volume devotes particular attention to areas often neglected by organized labour: the relationship between ecology, climate change and jobs; unionizing service work; the dynamics of trade union–political party alliances; gender; and new forms of solidarity. It brings together a group of distinguished labour scholars and practitioners who make an important contribution through their rich empirical case studies.

For more information or to find out where to purchase the publication, please follow the link below that will direct you to the Publications web page of the International Labour Organization website.

“Labour needs new strategies to mobilize and organize and to build new alliances, but it also needs development concepts that question capitalism’s insatiable appetite for growth, without denying the necessity of income growth for the billions of people living in abject poverty. By selecting diverging and potentially controversial views on these issues, Labour in the Global South contributes a much needed southern perspective to this essential debate, as well as to the global discourse.”

From the Preface by Bheki Ntshalintshali

“Labour in the Global South is an exciting contribution to the new field of global labour studies. It identifies in ten clearly written chapters the innovative and creative responses to the challenges facing labour worldwide.”

Edward Webster, University of Kassel, Germany, and University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa