

**Call for contributions to a special issue of Politics and Governance, a
peer-reviewed open access journal
20 September 2016**

Dear colleagues,

As guest editors for **Politics and Governance**, we are planning a **special issue on labour standards in a global environment**.

Labour standards have increasingly become integrated in trade agreements, not only those concluded by the EU and the US with trade partners but also in South-South agreements. Much has been written about the way in which labour standards have found their way to trade agreements, and the motivations to do so. However, we still have little understanding about the *effects* of such measures. And such effects matter, as we are moving towards a future in which trade agreements will increasingly be under public scrutiny to respond to legitimate concerns about the effects of such agreements in a number of areas, such as on economic growth, dispute settlement, human rights, environmental concerns, good governance, sustainable development and labour rights. The focus will shift more and more from narrow trade issues to so-called trade-related issues. In addition to trade conditionality, alternative approaches to advancing labour standards through trade may be developed. We, as social scientists with considerable knowledge about labour in a global environment, can provide valuable insights into this debate, help to shape the future of the debate. This also means looking beyond this labour-trade agreements debate into alternative means of advancing the position of workers in a global age.

The aim of this special issue is to understand the effects of labour references in trade agreements and the alternative means to advance labour rights. The topics of this special issue focus on:

1. The **ultimate effects** of labour standards in trade agreements (single or comparative case studies). A focus of these articles should be on how to understand effects related to the content of what is included, what kind of procedures are in place and what the relation of this is to the implementation, de jure and de facto.
2. The **intermediate effects** of labour standards in trade agreements in terms of how they advance e.g. the position of stakeholders, be it specific governments or non-governmental organizations;
3. The **alternatives**: what are viable alternatives to labour standards conditionality in trade agreements and what are their intermediate and ultimate effects. Alternatives can include all kinds of private-public cooperation, such as framework agreements, as well as Fair Trade and certification schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility arrangements, global initiatives such as the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact, etc.

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and language editing. It may be the case that your institution is an institutional member, in that case there is no publication fee. See for more information <http://www.cogitatiopress.com/ojs/index.php/politicsandgovernance/about/editorialPolicies#custom-2>.

We would be grateful if you could send your abstracts (max 500 words) by the *15th of October*. Selected participants will be informed by 7th November.

The deadline for submissions of the articles is 31 March 2017, and the publication is planned for October-December 2017.

We hope to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

Jan Orbie (Ghent University) and Gerda van Roozendaal (University of Groningen)