

MPOWER:

13 years young



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MPOWER



At the half-way mark of 2026, MPOWER has been in operation for 13 years. We thank everyone who has contributed to the Group's activities and evolution since 2013 and look forward to continuing to work with you.

In this newsletter, we profile a recently published report that examines inclusive union governance, innovative servicing and reach around the globe. Commissioned by the International Labour Organisation's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ILO ACTRAV), this empirical study will be formally launched later this year but can be accessed online (see page 2).

We also overview other recent projects and events. A research handbook on decent work, co-edited by Professor Ishbel McWha-Hermann and other MPOWER members will be published soon (page 4). Another book on green transition and diversity, co-edited by Dr Mehtap Akgüç, Prof. Jane Parker (MPOWER Co-director), and Drs Bart Vanhercke and Marouane Laabbas el Gennouni, is nearing completion. It will form the fifth publication in the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA)-ILO-Elgar book series and will be launched at the ILERA World Congress in Australia in September 2027 (page 5). A third book focuses on the role of trade unions in relation to climate change and a fifth will be a handbook on social movement unionism, both published by Elgar (also page 5). Other MPOWER activity and work are overviewed on page 3. Prof. Jim Arrowsmith (MPOWER Co-director) has also signed a book contract to deliver an Edward Elgar Research Handbook on Flexible Working, co-edited with Prof. Valeria Pulignano and Assoc.-Prof. Josh Healy - details to follow in our next newsletter.

We also report on the recent European conference of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) in a very hot Bordeaux, France (1-4 July 2026) (see page 7) and an event involving MPOWER members for workers by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Belgium (page 4). Also profiled are forthcoming conferences in which MPOWER members are involved. These include the 2027 ILERA World Congress and the 2027 Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand (AIRAANZ) Conference which will take place at Queensland University of Technology in Queensland, Australia (pages 7-8).

Our new member introduction focuses on Patricia Quina who is completing her Master of Laws at KU Leuven in Belgium and is currently a research intern at the ETUI (page 9). Page 10 overviews a number of publications to which MPOWER members have contributed.

How to join MPOWER

MPOWER aims to connect academics, practitioners and policy makers around applied employment research. Joining the group is free and simple. Contact us at j.arrowsmith@massey.ac.nz or jparker@etui.org to be put on our mailing list. You can also receive information on and early alerts about MPOWER activities by joining our MPOWER LinkedIn Group.

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Contact us

If you'd like to advertise an upcoming event, news or important information about your workplace, community group or research project, please email us. Our next issue is due around December 2026.

Study report

Inclusive trade union governance, innovative servicing and reach

Professor Jane Parker (European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and Massey University) and Professor Jim Arrowsmith (Massey University), with Paula Mejia Gonzalez and Dr Marouane Laabbas el-Gennouni (both ETUI), recently completed a global study on inclusive trade union governance, innovative servicing, and union reach involving diverse constituent groups. The report was edited by Rafael Peels, senior labour expert at ILO ACTRAV.

ILO ACTRAV commissioned and funded the ETUI to conduct this study from April 2025. It involved a comprehensive review of studies around the world that evidence trade union initiatives to progress their governance, servicing and reach activities. The review was followed in mid-2025 by a global survey of trade unions and semi-structured interviews with union leaders to help map recent and proposed union strategy and activities.

In the report, the empirical evidence and review are used to help conceptualise the relationships between union governance, servicing and reach, and to provide practical examples and recommendations to unions for consideration in their strategy and policy-making in the context of union renewal.

Published by the ETUI, the report includes a preface by Oliver Röpke (Director, ILO ACTRAV), Andy Watt (General Director, ETUI) and Professor Jonathan Elms (Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Massey Business School, Massey University).

To view a copy, please visit <https://www.etui.org/publications/inclusive-governance-innovative-services-and-reach>



MPOWER and the international Fertility@Work project

MPOWER co-directors, Jim Arrowsmith (Massey University) and Jane Parker (European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)) have joined a consortium of research bodies and individuals at the development stages of an EU Horizon COST Action project proposal. Project leads Valentina Paolucci (Maynooth University, Ireland) and Nadja Dörflinger (Dortmund University, Germany) of Fertility@Work (Framework for Equity in Reproductive Health Treatments in Inclusive Labour Ecosystems) observe that, across Europe, fertility is studied as a clinical and demographic question, but rarely as a workplace one. The Fertility@Work consortium is seeking to build the first comparative European agenda on how work - regulation, employers and lived experience - shapes who can access treatment, when and at what cost.

The consortium comprises more than 20 members from 13 countries, encompassing EU universities, research institutes and organisations. Members span employment relations, labour law, sociology, demography, public health, economics, business, reproductive science across COST member countries and some non-EU countries. The proposed project will examine extant data and surveys, with particular regard to worker intersectional (e.g. gender, LGBTQ+, disability, migration, socio-economic background) lenses. The proposal will be developed in August for submission the following month.



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



MPOWER and CRIMT

The Inter-university Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT) focuses on the theoretical and practical challenges associated with changes in work and employment. Established in 2003, CRIMT now brings together more than 270 university-based experts from fields including industrial relations, labour and employment policy, human resource management, labour law, ergonomics, political economy and economic geography. Sixty-four of these experts are based in Quebec, Canada.

Founded by the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and HEC Montréal, CRIMT is an inter-institutional research centre that brings together researchers affiliated with more than a dozen Quebec universities. In Quebec, it is supported by an inter-university agreement between its three founding institutions, as well as UQAM and UQTR as partner institutions. CRIMT receives funding as an operating centre under the Strategic Clusters programme of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), as well as support from its five partner institutions in Quebec.

CRIMT has been invited to submit a full Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant application. Over coming months, it will be preparing the final application, a central objective of which that it fully reflects the richness, diversity, and international scope of the research being conducted across the network. MPOWER is delighted to be in talks with CRIMT about its possible engagement in the partnership, by virtue of its current and planned research projects.



Other recent events involving MPOWER members:

'Demo+' Conference, 23-24 June 2026



Jane Parker (MPOWER Co-director) and Ivan Sainsaulieu (Université de Lille, France) co-led 'Demo+', a conference on democracy in the EU and globally. The conference was held in Brussels, Belgium on 23-24 June 2026.

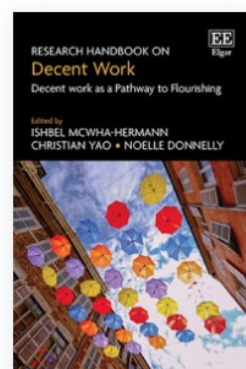
The event was opened by Bart Vanhercke, Research Director of the ETUI. Jane, Ivan and Bart chaired an array of speakers, including Francisca Gutierrez Croco

(Professor, Université Australe du Chili, Valdivia); Stephane Le Queux (MPOWER member and Senior Lecturer, James Cook University, Australia); Bashman Mohammed, (PhD Researcher in law at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and union organiser); Sara Lafuente (Senior Researcher, ETUI); Maxime Quijoux (Researcher from Centre national de recherche scientifique (CNRS), Laboratoire interdisciplinaire pour la sociologie économique (LISE), Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM), Paris, France); Abdoulaye Moussa Diallo, (Social Scientist, African Population and Health Research Center APHRC, Dakar, Senegal); Arthur Guichoux (Researcher, Pragmapolis, Université de Liège, Belgium); Réjane Sénac (CNRS Research Director, Centre de la vie politique française (CEVIPOF), Paris, France); Paola Sedda (Lecturer, MCF, Institut universitaire technologique (IUT), DEMOCIS, Université de Lille, France); Julien Talpin, Research Director, Centre d'études et de recherches administratives, politiques et sociales (CERAPS), DEMOCIS, Université de Lille, France); and Bianca Luna Fabris (Researcher, ETUI).

For all interested, find more information about the conference at <https://www.etui.org/events/bottom-democracy-eu-and-globally-driving-forward>, and a video of the event at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxDh5x8tA_0&pp=0gcJCZQLAYcqIYzv

Forthcoming book

Research Handbook on Decent Work: Decent Work as a Pathway to Flourishing



Lead editor and MPOWER member, Professor Ishbel McWha-Hermann (University of Edinburgh), and co-presenters David Blustein, Ines Meyer and M. Esther Garcia Buades, recently shared a forthcoming Edward Elgar Research Handbook on Decent Work at the 31st Congress of the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP2026) in Florence on 21-25 July. Her team is working on the final proofs and the book will be in print soon.

The book, published by Edward Elgar Publishing is co-edited by Ishbel, Dr Christian Yao and Associate-Professor Noelle Donnelly (both Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and MPOWER members). Jane Parker and Noelle Donnelly co-authored chapter 8 on 'Trade unions and decent work: Advancing gender and intersectional equality.' For more information, see: [Research Handbook on Decent Work](#)

The nexus of green transition and diversity: Fairness, equity and inclusivity

by Mehtap Akgüç, Jane Parker, Bart Vanhercke and Marouane Laabbas el Gennouni (eds)

This forthcoming book is the fifth in the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA)-ILO-Elgar book series. Multidisciplinary in approach, it will bring global perspectives on the connections between green transition and diversity issues, and is planned to be published as open access by Elgar during 2027.

The volume fills a significant gap in labour and employment research by offering more comprehensive conceptualisation, mapping and understanding of the implications of the green transition through a diversity lens. It will bridge these tranches of literature and social phenomena by employing a robust mixed-methods strategy (i.e. triangulating qualitative and quantitative techniques across conceptual, theoretical and empirical chapters within a multidisciplinary framework). The approaches include industrial relations, feminist studies, political economy, economics, legal, and organisational behaviour. The book concludes with proposed ways forward for researchers, policymakers, social partners and other stakeholders, with particular regard for progressing meaningful workplace and societal inclusion amid dynamic, interrelated macro-transitions.

Twenty-one authors have drafted an editorial introduction and 10 chapters for this volume which will be published in late 2026, ahead of its official launch at the ILERA 2027 World Congress at the University of Sydney in Australia. MPOWER members involved in this work include Jane Parker (Massey University/ETUI), Bart Vanhercke (ETUI), and Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven).

Regulating AI through collective bargaining: key issues and country case studies

by Silvia Rainone and Wouter Zwysen (eds)

This forthcoming book examines AI and algorithmic management (AM) in relation to collective bargaining and the world of work in various European Union member states (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain). In each country case, due consideration is given to key concerns including the regulatory/legislative framework; collective bargaining developments and agreements; challenges around collective bargaining in relation to AI and AM; sectoral considerations; and an array of methodological approaches.

The book involves nine chapters and 21 authors, with Silvia Rianone and Wouter Zwysen also providing a concluding chapter. MPOWER members involved in this endeavour include Wouter Zwysen (ETUI) and Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven). The book will be published by the ETUI.

Handbook on Trade Unions and Social Movements

by Jane Parker, Ozan Alakavuklar, Devi Vijay and Noelle Donnelly (eds)

Trade unions have long formed part of the institutional fabric of industrial systems in many countries. Amid intersecting crises associated with widening inequality, labour precarity, ecological degradation, unions continue to confront significant challenges while also developing new forms of resistance and solidarity. Such developments highlight how contemporary union action is increasingly shaped not only by local histories and institutions but also by alliances, networks and flows that extend across geographical and political boundaries.

This interdisciplinary handbook examines unions' growing engagement with other social movements in the global North and South. It pays particular attention to how this engagement can be defined; its rationales and influences; and impacts for the parties involved and their constituents. The contributors to the handbook embrace both internationally renowned and emerging scholars and practitioners.

The book will have around 30 chapters and will be published in 2028. At this early stage, MPOWER members involved in this work include Jane Parker (Massey University/ETUI), Ozan Alakavuklar (Utrecht University), and Noelle Donnelly (Victoria University of Wellington).

SASE 2026 Conference in Bordeaux: July 1-4

Fighting Divisions: Conflict and Power in a Post Globalisation Order 38th Annual SASE Conference



In person: 1-4 July 2026

Virtual events: 22-24 June 2026

SASE President: Roberto Pedersini

Held at Sciences Po/Université de Bordeaux in Bordeaux, renowned for its wine, history, and academic excellence, the SASE 2026 Congress was a vibrant environment for knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration and networking.

Theme overview

Conflict and power shape every socio-economic and political system. Institutions help regulate these dynamics by defining how power is exercised and which forms of conflict are legitimate. During periods of crisis or transition, existing institutions may fail to manage new or intensified divisions, and social actors often assert power to advance their interests.

Centred on the theme 'Conflict and Power in the Era of Post-Globalisation,' the 2026 SASE Conference explored how conflict and power operate in this changing environment. It brought together diverse disciplines and methods, and attendees included researchers, scholars, and experts in socio-economics, sociology and political science.

MPOWER at SASE 2026

More than 2,200 people attended 600 sessions at the Conference, including a number of MPOWER members: Roberto Pedersini (Università degli Studi di Milano, President of SASE) who gave the keynote presidential speech, Wouter Zwysen (ETUI), Jane Parker (ETUI), Valeria Puligano (KU Leuven), Greg Bamber (Monash University), Bart Vanhercke (ETUI), Bernd Brandl (Durham University) and Kurt Vandaele (ETUI).

AIRAANZ Annual Conference 2027

Power in the Balance: Technology, Participation and Decent Work
3-5 February 2027



This event is proudly supported and hosted by the QUT Faculty of Business and Law and Centre for Decent Work and Industry.

Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point campus, Brisbane, Australia.

The Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand (AIRAANZ) is pleased to announce that the 2027 conference will take place in Brisbane, Queensland, at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) from Wednesday 3 February, to Friday 5 February 2027.

The conference theme is **"Power in the Balance: Technology, Participation and Decent Work."** As labour markets respond to technological disruption, climate disasters, and geopolitical instability, relationships of power between individual actors, institutions, and states are continually shifting, reconfiguring labour processes and employment relationships. Across industries and economies, the boundaries of managerial control, worker autonomy, and collective action are being redrawn. At the same time, evolving labour markets, regulatory frameworks, and forms of work organisation are putting pressure on established understandings of participation, representation, and decent work.

This year's theme invites contributions that explore these tensions from multiple angles: asking who benefits from change, who carries the risks, how workers, unions, employers, and states are responding, and what fairness, security, and inclusion look like in an increasingly volatile world. This conference offers a timely opportunity to turn the attention of industrial relations scholarship towards some of the most pressing questions facing the world of work today.

KEY DATES

- ◆ Call for proposals for special sessions, streams and workshops open: **22 June 2026**
- ◆ Proposals for special sessions, streams and workshops deadline: **31 July 2026**
- ◆ Conference abstract submissions open: **24 August 2026**
- ◆ Conference abstract submission deadline: **2 October 2026**
- ◆ Abstract acceptance notifications: **6 November 2026**
- ◆ Early bird registrations open: **9 October 2026**

More information:

<https://www.airaanz.org/conference/airaanz-conference-2027>

Forthcoming conference

21th ILERA World Congress

30 August – 3 September 2027 – ICC Sydney

Sustainable, productive and decent work:
Bridging research, practice and policy

We are delighted to announce that Sydney has been chosen as the host city for the 21st ILERA World Congress. The event will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Darling Harbour from 30 August to 3 September 2027.

The Congress theme is *“Sustainable, productive and decent work: Bridging research, practice and policy.”*

Join practitioners, scholars, policy makers, regulators, unions and employers from around the world in one of the most iconic and vibrant cities on the globe. Further details, including the call for papers, will be announced in 2026.

Mark your calendars now – we look forward to welcoming you to Sydney!



Scan the QR code to see all the latest information online

Proudly hosted by:



New member profile

Introducing:

Patricia Naviri

*Master's student at KU Leuven -
University of Zurich (Belgium/
Switzerland)*



Background

I am a Master of Laws student currently enrolled in a double degree programme with KU Leuven and the University of Zurich. I obtained my LLB from Universitas Indonesia and worked as a junior researcher at the Djokosoetono Research Centre of the Faculty of Law, Universitas Indonesia before coming to Belgium. My work at that time mainly covered projects on employment law, including collaborating with the Jakarta Regional Government office on regulation amendments.

I chose this study programme specifically to gain exposure to as many research opportunities as possible. I am planning to continue my academic journey until a PhD and eventually work as a university professor. So, a double degree is a great way to get the best study experience out of both universities. I speak three languages: Bahasa Indonesia, English, and (conversational) Dutch.

Research Interests/Projects

I am most interested in topics on labour law, social security and comparative law. There are so many things to explore within these fields, especially when it comes to the impacts of labour/social policies on society or how societal developments affect the former. I once wrote a blog post commenting on Indonesia's struggle with classifying platform workers, as it is currently one of the most debated labour issues in the country (if you are interested, the link is on my LinkedIn).

Currently, I'm exploring the phenomenon of "Economically Dependent Self-Employed Workers" and its interaction with the EU social security coordination and internal market integration as part of my internship at ETUI. Hopefully, in September, I will present it at an ETUI traineeship "Brown Bag Lunch" event in Brussels, Belgium. The date is to be announced; everyone is welcome!

****Extra:** I am also interested in health law. The topic of euthanasia is particularly intriguing, as it is something between objective legal perspectives and a more subjective moral point of view.

Contact:

You can contact me at patriciaq893@gmail.com or on my [LinkedIn](#). Nice to meet you all!

Selected publications involving MPOWER members (names in bold)

- ◆ Carstensen, M.B., **Ibsen, C.L.**, Jensen, I.M.N. and Lund-Sorensen, B. (2026). Mapping green skills in collective skill formation systems: A natural language processing analysis of Danish vocational education and training. *Regulation and Governance*, 20(2): 524-543.
- ◆ Hamilton, M., **Baird, M.**, Kintominas A. and Williams, A. (2026). Ambivalent Inclusion: Older workers, diversity agendas and the persistence of the ideal worker. *Work, Employment and Society*, 40 (3): 421-442.
- ◆ Jiang, L., **Haar, J.**, and **Rashid, M.S.** (2026). HPWS and employee outcomes: exploring job crafting and leisure crafting pathways. *Evidence-based HRM: a Global Forum for Empirical Scholarship*.
- ◆ Kenny, K., Peterie, M. Broom, A. and **Ramia, G.** (2026). Conclusion: considering the future of care. In *Infrastructures of Informal Care*. Bristol University Press, pp. 243-249.
- ◆ Kessler, I., McDermott, A.M., Vermeerbergen, L., **Pulignano, V.** and Harney, B. (2026). Sustainable work and employment in social care: New challenges, new priorities. *Human Resource Management*, 65(3): 637-652.
- ◆ O-Brady, S., **Bamber, G.J.** and Cooper, B. (2025). Academic capitalism and precarity in the neoliberal university: Job insecurity and stress in two liberal market economies. *Industrial Relations Journal*, 56 (4): 291-300.
- ◆ **Parker, J., Pulignano, V.** and **Fabris, B.L.** (eds). (2027). *Towards green solidarity: What does climate change mean for trade unions*. Edward Elgar (forthcoming).
- ◆ **Parker, J.** and **Arrowsmith, J.** (2026). *Inclusive governance, innovative servicing and reach: Trade unions adapting to a diverse workforce*. ETUI report no. 2026.05, ETUI/ILO ACTRAV/MPOWER.
- ◆ **Parker, J.** and **Donnelly, N.** (2026). Trade unions and decent work: Advancing gender and intersectional equality. In I. McWha, C. Yao and N. Donnelly (eds). *Research Handbook on Decent Work: Decent Work as a Pathway to Flourishing* (chapter 8). Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 95-115 (forthcoming).
- ◆ **Peetz, D.** and **Murray, G.** (2026). Piece-wages, ‘gig’ technology and self employment. In *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/15691497-20262008>
- ◆ Rainone, S. and **Zwysen, W.** (eds). (2026). *Regulating AI through collective bargaining: Key issues and country case studies*. ETUI.
- ◆ **Roche, M.**, Faulkner, J.W. and Callagher, E. (2026). A scoping review and research agenda: Psychological flexibility and wellbeing in organisations. *Applied psychology, health and wellbeing*, 18(2): 370139.
- ◆ Smith, M., Houghton, L, Riverola, C. and **Intezari, A.H.** (2026). From assistants to competitors: The evolution of AI-assisted digital clones (AIADCs). In *Advances in Computational Intelligence and Robotics*. Global Scientific Publishing, pp. 1-30.
- ◆ **Taksa, L.** (2026) Excavating the Roots of Modern Slavery and Wage Theft: Uncovering Experiences of and Resistance to the Truck System in Colonial Australia. *Labour History*, 1-26.
- ◆ **McWha, I., Yao, C.** and **Donnelly, N.** (eds) (2026). *Research Handbook on Decent Work: Decent Work as a Pathway to Flourishing*. Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming).
- ◆ Yu, J., Harsini, A.I. **Pauleen, D.J.**, **Taskin, N.**, Jafarzadeh, H. and Alam, S. (2026). Introducing a wisdom of the crowd’s process model for achieving effective crowd performance. *Group Decision and Negotiation*, 35(3).
- ◆ **Zwysen, W.** (2026). *Workers need options too—labour market concentration in Europe and why it matters for mergers*. ETUI Technical Brief no. 2026.05. ETUI.