

# Volume 6 Issue 1: Editorial

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This issue marks the beginning of a new chapter for the *Journal of Working-Class Studies* as we move the Journal to a new platform hosted by the University of Wyoming. Thanks to the work of Digital Scholarship Librarian Chealsye Bowley and the broader team there, we are now bedded into the Open Journals System. This move will improve a number of aspects of the Journal, particularly around searchability and each article now has its own Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which is a unique identifier that will make the articles easy to find on the internet (regardless of which website they may be linked to). With this move we have also formalised the copyright declarations for each article, confirming that authors retain copyright of their work, but that these are also broadly available via the Creative Commons licence that ensures access without commercial gain.

We would like to thank the Working-Class Studies Association past President, Scott Henkel for initiating this move, and the WCSA executive and others who have been part of the negotiations, and thank the wonderful librarians at the University of Wyoming for sharing their skills and facilitating the move. We remain committed to the open access and editorially independent nature of this Journal, and this new home will help us to maintain this commitment. We also remain committed to accessibility, with the ‘new home’, as before, deliberately minimalist - to allow for accessibility by people on a variety of internet connections, digital set ups, various stages of decay/decaying IT, but also for screen readers, colour sensitivities and physical accessibility requirements.

There are a wide range of topics among the papers included in this un-themed issue, all of which show the variety of writing and scholarship within the field of working-class studies. The issue opens with Karen Bell and Gnisha Bevan’s study of the attitudes of working-class interview subjects towards the Green New Deal. In ‘The Failure of Lifestyle Environmentalism and the Promise of the Green New Deal for Working-Class People’ they argue that working-class people *are* concerned with the environment and the impacts of climate change, but are often unsure of the particulars of the various versions of Green New Deals as presented by politicians.

Amanda McDougald Scott follows with ‘Benefits for Child Care Workers: How the State Could Help through a Medicaid Waiver’, which is an analysis of conditions faced by child care workers in the US, and a lack of decent health care for many child care workers due to inadequate health insurance. McDougald Scott presents some recommendations for improvements based on her research into the sector and knowledge of State legislation, and demonstrates the importance for health benefits for the wellbeing of child care workers. This article throws light on the large inequities in health care provision in the United States.

In ‘The (Un)Making of a Worker Poet: The Case of Md Mukul Hossine and Migrant Worker Writings in Singapore’ Luka Lei Zhang discusses the Singaporean migrant worker poet Md Mukul Hossine and outlines the ways that Mukul’s initial success as a poet in Singapore created complications for him as a working-class man. Zhang reveals the potential obstacles and

damage faced by working-class migrant poets navigating the neo-liberal publishing world and the colonial power structures of publishing and establishment literary scenes.

The research and instructional impact of books written by and about the experiences of working-class academics is explored by Jim Vander Putten in 'What's Worth Knowing? Research and Instructional Impacts of Books on Working-Class Academics'. Vander Putten looks at how and where such books are being read and used in undergraduate courses in the US and considers why books on class experience are not being set as course materials at the same volume as books on race and gender.

Jim Donnelly's personal essay follows – 'Giving Away the Game – Scattershot Notes on Social Class and Other Afflictions'. It offers an entertaining journey through some of his thoughts on being working class and the contradictions of aspiration for working-class people.

The final article is also a personal essay. Julie Kitzenberger's 'A Carpenter's Rainbow' is a touching tribute to her carpenter father and includes some images of his highly-skilled carpentry work. This short essay illustrates the importance of telling stories of working-class people and their work.

This issue also includes five books reviews, collated by book review editor Christie Launius. The books under review also span a wide range of topics; deindustrialisation in Scotland, union organising, a memoir of 1960s activism, autoethnographies of working-class women and a novel centred around temporary workers. Books for our readers to seek out!

We close this editorial by acknowledging that we are still living in 'COVID times', and that working-class people around the world are still suffering from the effects of the pandemic. We have seen the devastation in India as the virus ran through the population and the lack of vaccinations for many countries outside of the global north. Working-class people are still the ones working in occupations that leave them vulnerable to contracting the virus or losing their jobs when cities/regions are locked down. At the time of finalising this issue, we are again in lockdown here in Sydney.

We hope that the work that the scholars, activists, writers and artists continue to undertake as part of their commitment to working-class people will help to create awareness and lead to positive change for working-class people around the world. While the content in this issue was not necessarily directly influenced by the current situation, its context certainly was. As those of us with work feel the pressure to continue to muddle through with the fatigue of 'unprecedented times', those without work are in a position where stability sometimes seems unimaginable. In solidarity, together, we give each other comfort and hope.

Please, reader, know that no matter your circumstances you are not alone. If you're in need of help, please reach out. A great place to start is <https://checkpointorg.com/global/>