

Work after Globalization

Building Occupational Citizenship

Guy Standing, Professor of Economic Security, University of Bath, UK and Professor of Labour Economics, Monash University, Australia



'This is an important book. It shifts emphasis from the role of capital to the creativity of labour in the creation of value in the real economy. A central role is accorded to each and all of the skills and occupations which contribute to the construction of an economy and a civic culture governed by the public interest. Guy Standing has made an original contribution to the validation of human creativity in the economic process. The work owes an acknowledged debt to the vision of Karl Polanyi.'

– Kari Polanyi-Levitt, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

'Standing has written a comprehensive account of what the forces and developments that govern the contemporary world (such as states, employers, trade unions, the globalization of labor markets, financial market crises etc.) do to workers and the conditions under which they work and live. It is rare for a social science work that is full of empirical information to be as accessibly written as this one. It is even rarer to find all three of the things that good social science can deliver – fine-grained description, original explanation, sophisticated normative reflection – in the pages of a single volume. One of the richest accounts of the fates of labor since Polanyi (1944).'

– Claus Offe, Hertie School of Governance, Germany

'In Work after Globalization, Guy Standing, one of the most knowledgeable and theoretically sophisticated scholars in the area of labor relations today, paints a rich panorama of contemporary labor practices around the world to demonstrate that we are in the midst of a societal shift of historical dimensions. Standing's concept of industrial citizenship provides a way to re-capture both human agency and community, thereby reconciling the individual with society and flexibility with new forms of social security. This book is a tour de force for its sweeping scope, incisive analysis, and predictive power.'

– Katherine Stone, University of California, Los Angeles, US

In the midst of the Global Transformation, work and labour are being revolutionized. This ground-breaking book argues that only if we rethink our sense of occupation will it be possible to overcome the commodification, inequality and insecurity that globalization has unleashed.

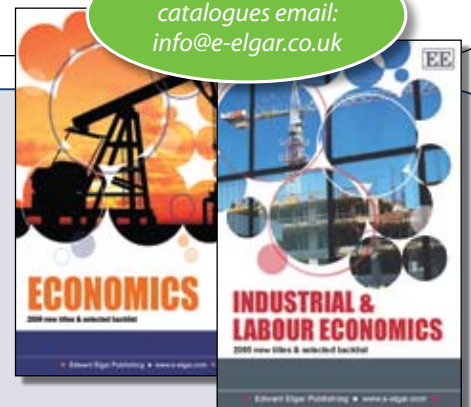
Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation* marked the rise of industrial citizenship, which hinged on fictitious labour decommodification. Since the 1970s, this has collapsed and a Global Transformation is under way, in which inequalities and insecurities are becoming unsustainable. Guy Standing explains that while a struggle against paternalism is essential, the desirable egalitarian response to the problems caused by globalization is a strategy to build occupational citizenship. This is based on a right to universal economic security and institutions to enable everybody to develop their capabilities and work whilst respecting the ecological imperatives of the 21st century. The book also explores a phasing out of labour law and a re-orientation of collective bargaining towards collaborative bargaining, highlighting the increased importance of the relationship between groups of workers and citizens as well as between workers and capital.

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