

Volume 2 Issue 1: Editorial

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Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Working-Class Studies*. We have been thrilled with the reception of the inaugural issue of the journal in December 2016, and thank all the authors, readers and community members, and members of the Working-Class Studies Association who have been in touch with us following the launch. We welcome any other (or ongoing) correspondence, proposals and suggestions at editorial@workingclassstudiesjournal.com

This issue is themed around ‘Popular Revolt and the Global Working Class’, and we are proud of the responses to the call for papers, and the published articles included in the issue. At the moment there is certainly a global feeling of unease, but also energy, rising from recent political changes across many nations. It is heartening to see so many working-class people, who themselves are often the biggest potential targets of political change, so active in leading popular revolts towards social equality. The articles included are designed to promote debate, but also circulate a variety of perspectives and allow interested scholars and citizens a platform to be heard.

It would be almost impossible to cover this issue’s theme without addressing the impact of America’s forty fifth President, Donald Trump. While there are many positions from which Trump’s impact can be examined (and further predicted), we are proud to feature an analysis of Trump’s ascension to the White House, undertaken by Douglas Schrock, Benjamin Dowd-Arrow, Kristen Erichsen, Haley Gentile, and Pierce Dignam. This team from Florida State University painstakingly examined 44 Trump campaign rally speeches, paying particular attention to the emotional messages encoded in the future President’s appeals to working-class people. Importantly, the researchers remind readers of the universal appeal of such affective engagement, speaking back to often patronising mainstream media suggestions that working-class people were particularly vulnerable to emotional appeals.

Drawing on extensive existing literature and offering new evidence, Miranda Cady Hallett explores the position of transnational migrant workers in the US. Specifically, Hallett’s fieldwork with Salvadoran transnational migrant workers in the poultry industry provides critical detail to demonstrate the real effects of industrial and political change. Grounded in critical theory and contextual history, this article provides the reader with rich detail and insight. The value of her work is in both her integration of existing literature, and presentation of the worker’s own voices and circumstances.

Leaving the US, Jeremy Morris’ consideration of Russian working-class voices is thought-provoking and informative. Morris draws on existing literature and original ethnographic research, and presents context beyond the headlines, allowing an important insight into the region for readers without first-hand experience. While there are certainly distinct aspects to the experiences of working-class people in this

region, there are also striking similarities in terms of resilience, commitments to change and the perseverance of working-class voices globally.

As part of the ‘popular’, we are happy to include Jennifer Hagen Forsberg’s piece on working-class representations in the television show *Mad Men*. Forsberg’s thoughtful and detailed reconsideration of the ‘Hobo’ figure in the show draws attention to versions of history (even television fictional ‘history’) that are so often overlooked. This is a longer piece than we have previously featured in the *Journal of Working-Class Studies*, but an article that displays a depth that we’re pleased to be able to accommodate in this open access format. Come for the cool drinks – stay for the wonderful analysis.

Richard Hudelson provides a personally informed, but politically engaged consideration of the contemporary American labour movement. With a philosophical background and practical grounding, Hudelson’s work provides historical context as well as a global comparison. His writing is direct and often short and sharp, making the broader concepts easily digestible despite their scope. Also drawing on a case study, Wyatt Nelson explores conditions in a mega-retail store in the United States. His paper outlines the move towards individualism; articulates the perils with this; and offers practical steps to move towards a return to collectivism in the workplace. Although brief, his work is an important snapshot and provocation.

The papers included in this issue are eclectic in their approach and speak to the theme from a variety of positions. We have also included two non-peer reviewed pieces, a commentary by Terry Irving and interview by Tula Connell. Irving’s position as a radical historian means that his work may provoke readers, especially with his criticism of identity politics. The boldness of his work is deliberately antagonistic; but in an issue themed on ‘popular revolt’, his, at times, uncomfortable argument seems apt. The interview with Maina Kiai by Tula Connell is also an unconventional but excellent exploration of labour rights, informed by direct engagement with the UN and contemporary developments.

The issue also includes six book reviews. Although individual items, collectively they demonstrate the ways in which race, gender, immigration and class are inextricably linked. We would suggest that this issue of the *Journal of Working-Class Studies* demonstrates that the current scholarship in our field (and related disciplines), is very strong indeed.