

LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES



Call for manuscripts for a thematic issue of *Latin American Perspectives*

Latin American Responses to the Precarization of the World of Work:

Expressions, Articulations, Accelerations and Social Resistance

Change in the world of work, as in all social relations, is a constant. Currently, workers in Latin America find themselves dealing with the aftermath of the latent threat to their lives from the COVID 19 pandemic and the productive imperative to adapt and function in an increasingly demanding and uncertain world of work. States have given ambivalent signals in this matter, trying to dynamize the movement and fluidity of labor markets to recover economic growth rates in a cycle marked by increasing inflation due to international geopolitical phenomena.

Just as older 20th century literature on job insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean proposed approaches such as "informality", marginality, productive restructuring or atypical work, changing conditions led to new theoretical approaches such as "new informality", atypical work, flexible work, new economies, creative work, care work, non-classical work, etc. Today the concept of precarity encompasses multiple possibilities of understanding the heterogeneity of forms that work and employment have assumed since the introduction of neoliberal labor flexibilization policies including changes in the occupational structure and the segmentation of labor markets which workers navigated under poor salary conditions and outside the stability and certainty of statutory social security and protection systems. At the same time, the destabilization of formal employment status weakened networks of integration and social cohesion and deepened practices of discrimination and inequality..

In the first two decades of the 21st century, this situation has been reinforced by migration, informality, unemployment, pandemic and social crises that converged to highlight the importance of precarity in the transformation of Latin American societies. The dynamics of cultural, technological, ecological, political and economic changes in the region have consolidated a new framework for the expansion and regulation of precarity and resistance to it. In Latin America, the trends of peripheral capitalism point towards a problematization of the conditions of reproduction of work/life, since this articulation politically expresses the interrelation and centrality of work for understanding the totality of social relations.

Theorization of precarity complements other theoretical developments. Feminist studies challenge gender norms that sustain a sexual division of labor and its precarity. Political ecologies have centered extractivism and its socio-ecological consequences to problematize the relationship between economic growth and social development. Technological changes are introducing new issues regarding platforms, automation and robotization, posing important challenges for Latin American debates and research,

especially in the area of regulation, appropriation, transfer and the objectives of “decent work” and “dignified work” versus “precarious work.”

Political processes confront the precarity and precarization of work creating opportunities to question the relationship between work, employment, well-being and development. Although government and state policies have strengthened labor and social security institutions, especially based on the 2030 sustainable development goals agenda, the actions of resistance and mobilization by unions, workers' organizations and multiple social movements also constitute important responses to the advances of precarity.

Finally, given the increase in informality rates in the post-pandemic period, it is necessary to revisit the link between precarity and informality since treating them as synonyms or interchangeable terms tends to nullify their particularities. Informality includes forms of work linked to the lack of social security and social protection, arising from the lack of a contract and formal work relationships. Precarity incorporates informal work but also includes forms of salaried and dependent work, depending on remuneration, contracts, income and working conditions.

This special issue will identify a series of ongoing transformations and trends with the precarity of work as a common axis in order to visualize work in its most structural, everyday and intersubjective meaning and social implications and to question its effects and consequences for the physiognomy, reproduction and complexity of Latin American societies.

This involves an expansion of the concept of (unpaid) work, the articulation of socio-technological changes and the search for regional and transnational coordination on proposals and policies to regulate and reduce precarity. At the same time, this search for alternatives mobilizes an intersectional and situated perspective on the particularities of Latin America in this process and its faces, subjects and expressions. Centering the category of precarity also facilitates a global dialogue with empirical research and conceptual approaches that problematize the inequality and synchronization of capitalist accumulation from the North and the South as complementary forms of the same process.

The deepening of global, regional and continental changes has brought the concept of precarity into prominence today, as seen in a series of publications in the Global North. This makes it necessary to develop analysis, strategies and proposals from Latin America and the Caribbean for public policy in the field of labor and social security, as well as to pay attention to the links between the emergence of social protests, new types of governments and various expressions of the working class response to precarity in Latin America and the Global South.

Therefore, this issue seeks to consider the formation of bridges of communication and discussion regarding the scope, differences and geographical expressions at a global level of precarity and precarization, focusing on the history, economy, culture and social relations in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are interested in fostering debate with a view to obtaining a relational, complex, articulated and dialogical vision regarding the multiple dimensions of this process and establishing a reference point for the research to be developed in the region on this subject.

We invite theoretically grounded contributions that investigate the interrelation between job insecurity and the contemporary transformations of Latin American and Caribbean societies. Topics include but are not limited to:

1. Historical expressions and contemporary forms of job and labor precarity.
2. Conceptual, theoretical and methodological proposals about job and labor precarity.
3. Psychosocial impacts of precarious work.
4. Public policies and legislation related to job insecurity and job precarity.
5. Technological changes and precarity of work.
6. Sociopolitical processes and public agendas regarding employment, work and job precarity.
7. Actors, mobilizations and resistance to the processes of job precarity.
8. Experiences of precarious work in situated contexts and specific occupations
9. Comparative analysis of the labor market, segmentation and job insecurity.

SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

To avoid duplication of content, please contact the issue editors to let them know of your interest in submitting and your proposed topic. We encourage submission as soon as possible, preferably by May 30, 2026 but this call will remain open as long as it is posted on the LAP web site.

Manuscripts should be no longer than 8,000 words of paginated, double-spaced 12 point text with 1 inch margins, including notes and references, using the LAP Style Guidelines available at www.latinamericanperspectives.com under the “Submit” tab where the review process is also described. Manuscripts should be consistent with the LAP Mission Statement available on the web site under the “About” tab.

Manuscripts may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. If you do not write in English with near native fluency, please submit in your first language. LAP will translate manuscripts accepted in languages other than English. If you are not submitting in English, please indicate if you will have difficulty reading reviews and/or correspondence from the LAP office in English.

Please feel free to contact the issue editors with questions pertaining to the issue but **all manuscripts should be submitted directly to the LAP office**, not to the issue editors. A manuscript is not considered submitted until it has been received by the LAP office. You should receive acknowledgment of receipt of your manuscript within a few days. If you do not receive an acknowledgment from LAP after one week, please send a follow-up inquiry to be sure your submission arrived.

E-mail Submissions: send to lap@ucr.edu

Subject Line: Author name – Manuscript for Precarity issue

Please attach your manuscript as a Word Document (doc or docx)

Include: Abstract (100 words), 5 Keywords, and a separate cover page with short author affiliations (less than 130 words) and complete contact information (e-mail, postal address, telephone).

Postal correspondence may be sent to: Managing Editor, Latin American Perspectives, P.O. Box 55540, Riverside, California 92517-55540.

For an article with more than one author, provide contact information for all authors but designate one person as the Corresponding Author who will receive correspondence from the LAP office. If any contact information changes while your manuscript is under consideration, please send the updated information to LAP promptly.

Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in the journal. Authors should not submit a manuscript that has been previously published in English in identical or substantially similar form nor should they simultaneously submit it or a substantially similar manuscript to another journal in English. LAP will consider manuscripts that have been published in another language, usually with updating. Prior publication should be noted, along with the publication information.

Issue editor contact information:

Dasten Julián-Vejar: dasten@gmail.com