

11.10.2018

GLAWCAL #357
COMMENT

WORKER AGENCY

Based on

Eeva Houtbeckers and Tiina Taipale
“Conceptualising Worker Agency for
the Challenges of the Anthropocene:
Examples from Recycling Work in the
Global North”



gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

A gLAWcal comment on Eeva Houtbeckers and Tiina Taipale "Conceptualising Worker Agency for the Challenges of the Anthropocene: Examples from Recycling Work in the Global North" in Pasi Heikkurinen (Ed.) **Sustainability and Peaceful Coexistence for the Anthropocene.**

Worker agency is more generally defined in the realm of being able to act in the individual and collective regard for their fellow employees. Certain industries have greater levels of worker agency, and unions of employees are commonplace. Generally speaking, the greater level of worker agency, the higher the income levels of these workers are, especially if they are workers in trades. There is often a notion that worker agency is particularly influential on the individual level, but it more often is most influential on the societal level. Certain benefits that are achieved through collective action by one industry are then pushed for implementation in unrelated industries. Worker agency has been known well before the industrial age, but the increasing number of workers, and disparity between labor and the means of production complicated the process, needing greater ability for workers to have agency in their working lives. The increasing status of worker agency has proved to have some incredible impact on the anthropocene. The areas of the world that have had greater worker agency, have general-

ly been able to provide a greater level of income for those workers. The anthropogenic problems and solutions all lie with the ability to provide information, skills, and disposable income to individuals who are able to solve these problems.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

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To collaborate with Government, Civil society and business community to balance the excess of globalization with Non Trade Concerns.

OUR GOALS

To influence policymakers, to raise awareness over Non Trade Concerns, to encourage stakeholder participation, and to disseminate gLAWcal’s publication results.



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