

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the twentieth anniversary volume of *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*. We are proud of the journal's history of encouraging debate in the fields of economics, employment relations and social policy, from a social justice perspective. To celebrate this history, three distinguished members of our international Advisory Board have contributed articles to this issue.

We are delighted that internationally renowned Australian economist, Emeritus Professor Geoff Harcourt, of Jesus College Cambridge, opens this issue with a characteristically incisive critical overview of trends in economic thought that helped initiate and sustain the neoliberal era. Professor Harcourt, as noted in his citation for the award of an honorary Melbourne University doctorate in 2002, is 'one of the few Australian economists whose writings have been absorbed by the leading economists of his generation', and his ongoing support for *ELRR* is thus a great honour.

The closing contribution was provided in Italian by an Advisory Board member, Giulio Sapelli, Professor of Economic History and Political Economy at *l'Università Statale di Milano*, who enjoys a wide reputation in European economic history circles. His sweeping overview of employer and employee organisations as social actors in both Europe and Asia concludes by suggesting Korea as a harbinger of the future. It was generously translated by Dr Joseph Halevi of Sydney University, who would probably debate Professor Sapelli's view of globalisation — an indication that *ELRR* is supported by scholars from a range of critical perspectives.

This special issue also includes a refereed article by a third member of the *ELRR* Advisory Board, Professor Charles Woolfson, co-written with doctoral student Epp Kallaste from Tartu University in Estonia. Professor Woolfson, until recently at Glasgow University, and now located at the Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society at Linköping University in Norrköping, Sweden, is a leading scholar of industrial relations in the emerging Baltic states — an instructive field for those interested in the future of unionism more generally.

Other members of our new International Advisory Board have been extremely helpful with policy advice, and supportive in responding to refereeing requests, and we thank them. Along with our very active Editorial Committee and Book Review Coordinators, they have helped maintain the journal's quality, which also depends on the wide range of local and international reviewers on whom we call.

The symposium in this issue is something of a historical stock-take. It includes two significant conceptual and methodological contributions to thorny measurement problems — how to take account of the leisure gap in valuing well-being, and how to ensure state accountability for children's educational rights. It also includes two articles on weaknesses in the monitoring of equal

employment outcomes in Australia — timely in the context of the current review of the Equal Opportunity legislative and administrative framework.

Forthcoming issues of *ELRR* include exciting symposia, including a Greek-Australian collaboration on labour commodification; a further assessment of the emerging Fair Work regime; and analyses of emerging lifecourse income, skill and gender agendas. Meanwhile we continue to receive a high volume of quality general submissions, and it is a policy decision that we give more space in future issues to such individual contributions.

With on-line publication, abstracting and indexing by Scopus, Gale, ProQuest, EBSCO and Informat, and a growing subscriber base, *ELRR* is looking ahead with confidence. We are making steady progress in digitising back issues for on-line publication so that by mid-2010, we hope that full text of a complete run of the journal since 1989 will be readily available. This work is the result of the commitment of our impressive Editorial Coordinator, Jason Antony, to whose loving attention to graphic design and precision in copy-editing we trace our continuous improvement in *ELRR*'s production values.

Anne Junor, Peter Kriesler and Michael Quinlan
Editors, ELRR

