
List of contributors

Gokce Basbug is an Assistant Professor of Human Resource Management at Durham University Business School. Gokce's research focuses on work and employment issues. Specifically, he studies how individuals search for jobs, the experience of unemployment, gender segregation in labor markets, and health and safety in organizations.

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Tom Boland is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at University College Cork. With Ray Griffin, he is author of *The Sociology of Unemployment* and *The Reformation of Welfare: The New Faith of the Labour Market*. His research focuses on the governmentality of unemployment, particularly how categories and concepts in theory and social policy shape welfare processes and jobseeker subjectivities.

Alex Broom is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies, part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. He is recognized as an international leader in sociology, with a specific interest in health, illness, and care. His work takes a person-centered approach, qualitatively exploring the intersections of individual experience and social, political, and economic contexts.

Sarah A. Burgard is Professor of Sociology and, by courtesy, of Epidemiology and Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She is also Research Professor and Director of the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research at Michigan. Her research focuses on the social stratification of aging and health by socioeconomic status, gender, and race/ethnicity, with special attention to the influences of job loss, financial shocks, debt, housing instability, and material hardship.

Dorte Caswell is a Professor at Aalborg University in Denmark. Her research focuses on understanding social work practice in the context of welfare-to-work programs, including implications for the most vulnerable clients. Her research group collaborates with municipalities in Denmark to develop co-creation and user involvement in employment services through system innovation. Her publications are mainly within the areas of social work and social/employment policy, with a particular interest in research on street-level bureaucracy.

Victor Tan Chen is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has published four books: *The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America* (with Katherine S. Newman), a *Library Journal* Best Business Book; *Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy*, for which he received the Dunlop Outstanding Scholar

Award; *Organizational Imaginaries: Tempering Capitalism and Tending to Communities through Cooperatives and Collectivist Democracy* (with Katherine K. Chen), which received the Rothschild Book Prize; and the open-access methods textbook *The Craft of Sociological Research* (with Gabriela León-Pérez, Julie Honnold, and Volkhan Aytar). Chen's work has been featured in the *Atlantic*, *New York Times*, BBC News, *Fortune*, and NPR. He also edits *In The Fray*, an award-winning magazine devoted to personal stories on global issues.

Sarah Damaske is Roy C. Buck Professor of American Institutions and Sociology, Labor and Employment Relations, and Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University. Damaske's research examines how transitions into and out of work-family domains shape inequality across the life course. Damaske is the author of three books—most recently, *The Tolls of Uncertainty: How Privilege and the Guilt Gap Shape Unemployment in America*, which won the 2023 American Sociological Association's William J. Goode Book Award.

Alekzander Davila is a licensed psychologist in Massachusetts and New York. He received his PhD in counseling psychology from Boston College, where his research focused on work and career development among adolescents and adults. In his clinical work, he specializes in treating anxiety, relational/attachment challenges, and work/life transitions through an integrative approach. He works with individuals across the lifespan, helping them recognize patterns, deepen self-understanding, and cultivate psychological flexibility.

Didier Demazière is a Senior Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research in France and at Sciences Po in Paris. He studies labor markets, at large or in specific professional areas, exploring the mechanisms structuring career paths. Concerning unemployment, he focuses his work on the job search, analyzed at the crossroads of experiences of unemployment, public policies, and caseworkers' practices. Overall, he contributes to the sociological theory of unemployment, developing in-depth qualitative fieldwork and discussing the perspective of deprivation and loss.

Nancy DiTomaso is Distinguished Professor Emerita at Rutgers Business School—Newark and New Brunswick in the Department of Management and Global Business. Her research focuses on diversity, culture, and inequality. Her PhD is from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Her book, *The American Non-dilemma: Racial Inequality without Racism*, won the C. Wright Mills Award and was runner-up for the George R. Terry Award given by the Academy of Management (AOM). DiTomaso won the 2016 Sage Award for Scholarly Achievement in Gender and Diversity given by the AOM Division on Gender and Diversity.

Kathryn M. Dudley is Professor of Anthropology and American Studies at Yale University. She is the author of *The End of the Line: Lost Jobs, New Lives in Postindustrial America, Debt and Dispossession: Farm Loss in America's Heartland*, and *Guitar Makers: The Endurance of Artisanal Values in North America*. Her ethnography of work cultures, economic dislocation, and social trauma is recognized by the American Anthropological Association's Margaret Mead Award and the Society for the Anthropology of Work's Conrad Arensberg Award.

Whitney J. Erby is an Assistant Professor in the Counseling Psychology program at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research is focused on the ways in which experiences of marginalization at work impact well-being and work fulfillment.

Robert D. Francis is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. His research interests include US poverty and inequality, work and occupations, housing and homelessness, the working class, and rural communities. Much of his previous work has examined the lives of rural working-class men. His work has appeared in numerous academic journals and edited volumes.

Ilana Gershon is the Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology at Rice University. She explores how people engage with neoliberalism as a quixotic task of translation, turning a theoretical armature produced by a neoliberal thought collective into a set of guidelines for the practical quandaries of daily life. This question motivated her book on hiring in contemporary corporate America, *Down and Out in the New Economy* (University of Chicago Press, 2017). She has also published *The Pandemic Workplace* and edited *A World of Work: Imagined Manuals for Real Jobs*.

Michael Gordon is a doctoral candidate in the Counseling Psychology program at Boston College. His research focus includes examining the intersection between race and employment-related outcomes for Black Americans. Additionally, he focuses on adapting integrated mental health employment support interventions for marginalized populations. In his clinical work, he currently specializes in working with individuals with anxiety disorders and is pursuing career opportunities in the field of neuropsychology.

Ray Griffin is a Senior Lecturer in Management and Organization at South East Technological University. His research explores complex organizing through ethnographic methods, with studies spanning banking, sport, and social welfare systems. A former EU Horizon 2020, IRC, and SFI Principal Investigator, he has led a number of large-scale research programs on unemployment, work that has influenced European Union and Irish policy.

Brian Halpin is a Continuing Lecturer in the Sociology Department at the University of California, Davis. His research and teaching focus on low-wage work and workers, low-wage labor markets, trade unions, and the political economy of inequality. His recent publications focus on the intersection of recruitment and hiring practices and managerial control, how low-wage workers navigate low-wage labor markets, and how employers use precarious scheduling practices as a means of control over work and workers.

Magnus Paulsen Hansen is Associate Professor of Political Sociology at Roskilde University in Denmark. His work focuses on the role of morality and ideas in the turn towards active labor market and social policies—from public controversies and reforms to street-level bureaucracy and the experience of unemployment. His book *The Moral Economy of Activation* is published with Policy Press.

Erin Hatton is Professor of Sociology at the University at Buffalo–SUNY. Her research is centered in the sociology of work, while also extending into the fields of gender, culture, labor, law, and policy. Her book *Coerced: Work under Threat of Punishment* (University of California Press, 2020) analyzes the work of prisoners, welfare recipients, student athletes, and graduate students, and, in so doing, identifies control over status as a form of labor coercion.

Anna Kiersztyń is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. She is a long-standing member of the Polish Panel Survey (POLPAN) research team at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Her research

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Flemming Larsen is a Professor in the Department of Politics and Society at Aalborg University. His research focuses on analyzing policy changes, with a particular emphasis on social policy reforms, the consequences of introducing new governance models, and the interrelation between these. Currently, he collaborates with local welfare agencies to conduct experiments designed to develop system-based transformations that prioritize co-creation and user involvement in social and employment services.

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Travis Scott Lowe is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Tulsa. He specializes in inequality in the United States with an emphasis on the influence that social structures have on people's life chances. His work explores the differences between various types of perceived precarity at work, highlighting the distinction between perceived job and labor market precarity and investigating how these trends have changed from the 1970s to the present.

Greg Marston is Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Policy Futures at the University of Queensland in Australia. His research focuses on work and employment, poverty and economic security, and the social dimensions of climate change. Currently, he is collaborating with social service providers to understand worker retention and social identity in the care workforce.

Mathias Herup Nielsen is Associate Professor of Social Work at Aalborg University in Denmark. His work focuses on the interplay between politics and street-level work, particularly within employment services. His most recent publications investigate the varieties of cross-pressures emerging in street-level organizations as frontline workers are expected to comply with competing normative demands.

Annette Nierobisz is the Ada M. Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology at Carleton College. Her book, *American Idle: Late-Career Job Loss in a Neoliberal Era* (Rutgers University Press, 2025), documents the qualitative experiences of a select group of white-collar workers who encountered late-career job loss in the wake of the 2008 Great Recession. This work expands her long-standing focus on how unemployment is conceptualized within the cognitive frameworks imposed by neoliberal capitalism.

Dawn R. Norris is a Senior Researcher at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic and a 2023 Fulbright Scholar. She uses qualitative methods to study identity, work, age, and mental health. Her book *Job Loss, Identity, and Mental Health* (Rutgers University Press, 2016) examines these topics in the aftermath of the Great Recession. Her research has been featured in the *New York Times* and by the BBC. Her current research examines how historical transitions influence the subjective meaning of work and unemployment.

Jacqueline Olvera is Associate Professor of Sociology at Adelphi University. Her expertise lies in the areas of urban inequality, migration, and social policy. She has researched issues

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Michelle Peterie is Senior Research Fellow (Sociology) in the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies at the University of Sydney. Peterie's research investigates the impacts of social policies and practices on individual and collective well-being. Her books include *Immigration Detention and Social Harm* (2024), *Visiting Immigration Detention* (2022), *Compulsory Income Management in Australia and New Zealand* (2022), and *Emotions in Late Modernity* (2019). She has given expert evidence to the Australian Senate, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and the Crown Solicitor, and her work has received international media attention.

Allison J. Pugh is Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. Her research and teaching focus on how people forge connections and dignity amidst economic trends including job insecurity, commodification, and automation. She has also published work advancing the theory behind in-depth interviewing and ethnographic methods. Her most recent book, *The Last Human Job: The Work of Connecting in a Disconnected World*, investigates the rationalization of work that relies on relationships. A former journalist, she is dedicated to extending sociology's public reach.

Sabina Pultz is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Roskilde University. Her work explores the subjective experiences of unemployment and, more broadly, how people experience being marginalized in the labor market and in society. Her most recent book, *Emotionally Indebted: Governing the Unemployed People in an Affective Economy*, is published with Palgrave Macmillan. Overall, Pultz's research contributes to uncovering the intricate links between politics and psychology and exploring the role of emotions in these domains.

Aliya Hamid Rao is a sociologist and an Associate Professor at the London School of Economics. Her research focuses on how job loss shapes the gendered organization of family life and professional pathways. Her book, *Crunch Time: How Married Couples Confront Unemployment* (University of California Press, 2020), examines these issues. Her research has been published in journals such as the *American Sociological Review*, *Gender & Society*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and has been cited in the *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and *New York Times*, among others.

Ofer Sharone is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where his research and teaching focus on careers, aspirations, unemployment, stigma, and negotiations. His prior books include *The Stigma Trap: College Educated, Experienced, and Long-Term Unemployed* (Oxford University Press) and *Flawed System/Flawed Self: Job Searching and Unemployment Experiences* (University of Chicago Press).

Camille Smith is a doctoral candidate in the Counseling Psychology program at Boston College. Her research interests center around vocational psychology, and she teaches career counseling to mental health counseling students on an adjunct basis. Clinically, Smith is training to be a neuropsychologist and aims to integrate assessments and intervention in her practice.

Rose-Marie Stambe is a researcher affiliated with the University of Queensland. Her work examines how people navigate unemployment and welfare systems under conditions of

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Janet Wang is a doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Michigan. Her research uses quantitative methods to examine education and stratification processes across the life course. Her current work examines the health consequences of education-occupational mismatch.

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Jie Yang is Professor of Anthropology at Simon Fraser University. Her research focuses on anthropology, unemployment, mental health, and indigenous psychology in China. She has edited *Beyond Psyche: Aesthetic Attunement and Alternative Psychological Care through the Heart* (Review of General Psychology, 2024) and *The Political Economy of Affect and Emotion in East Asia* (Routledge, 2014) and written two monographs: *Unknotting the Heart: Unemployment and Therapeutic Governance* (Cornell University Press, 2015) and *Mental Health in China: Change, Tradition, and Therapeutic Governance* (Polity, 2018).