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► List of Issues ► Volume 13, Issue 1

Feminist Economics > Volume 13, 2007 - Issue 1

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Explorations on human rights

Transgressing rights: La Via Campesina's call for food sovereignty / Exploring collaborations: Heterodox economics and an economic social rights framework / Workers in the informal sector: Special challenges for economic human rights

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rights, and the different theoretical approaches to incorporating rights into an academic

framework. Though each contribution's methodology and focus are different, the composite takes an important step in evaluating this very critical question of economic rights that greatly affects individual lives, social conditions, economic policies, and the study of economics.

Q Keywords: Human rights resistance development the informal sector globalization justice

JEL Codes: J83, J8, J

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Uma Narayan's work on issues relating to the informal sector began in Fall 2003 with the support of a Rockefeller Fellowship on the theme of "Confronting Global Capital, Finding Human Security: A Gendered Critique" organized by the National Council for

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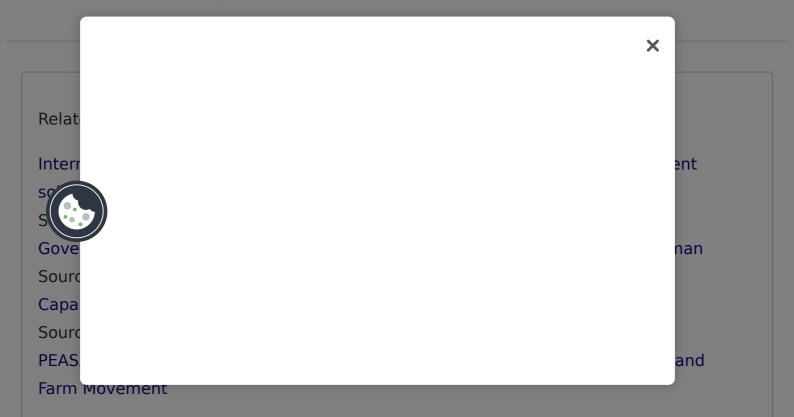
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Action Network has launched the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, and La Via Campesina representatives sit on the steering committee for that project. Specifically, the Foodfirst Information and Action Network is looking to use the UN General Comment 12 to argue for a robust framework of economic, social, and cultural rights, in addition to civil and political rights for people living in rural areas (UN - Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights [UNCESCR]1999).

- ² Some of the initial ideas in this paper were a result of long conversations with Uma Narayan.
- ³ See the work done by Third World Network (2001) review of Doha WTO Ministerial meeting and the work of the International Forum on Globalization (2000) analysis of Asian Financial crisis.
- ⁴ See International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (<u>www.icftu.org</u>) for discussion of WTO and labor standards discussion. There are many articles that have current analysis of this issue.
- ⁵ For work on the global living wage, see Mark Brenner (2004). This work does not use
- the concept of a universal minimum core content. ⁶ See Nussbaum's article (2003) for an argument on why the listing of particular capabilities is better at addressing the conception of the kind of person we might envision when we talk about human rights. In the same issue of Feminist Economics, Marianne T. Hill (2003) argues that the capabilities approach does not adequately deal with the vation. Hill's X argumei ⁷ See wo and edited by Internat Nilufer C 8 Ma t might not ected easily forese to forma ⁹ The dia Foundation

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- ¹⁰ Useful discussions and definitions of the informal sector can be found in Alejandro Portes, Manuel Castells, and Lauren A. Benton (1989) and Lourdes Beneria (2003).
- ¹¹ On its website, WIEGO describes itself as "a global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy through statistics, research, programs and policies and through increased organization and representation of informal workers."
- ¹² Particularly relevant to the rights cited here are Articles 17, 23, and 24.
- ¹³ For an account of the struggles and benefits of organizing a union of domestic workers, see Marina Karides (2002).
- ¹⁴ For information about SEWA see Mirai Chatterjee (2001), Martha Alter Chen (2000), and Ratna M. Sudarshan (2002).
- ¹⁵ Jeanne Kirkpatrick quoted in Joseph Wronka (<u>1995</u>). Morris Abram's, Statement, UN Commission on Human Rights, on Item 8, "The Right to Development," February 1991, quoted in Noam Chomsky (<u>1999</u>).
- ¹⁶ European Commission, Communication Sur le Travail Non Declaree, Brussels 1998. Cited in Anne Renaut (2002).
- ¹⁷ Jeffrey Sachs (2003), UN special adviser on the Millenium Goals, states that the amount of assistance needed to meet the Goals is US\$175 billion a year, but only about US\$50 billion is currently available.



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