

Preface

We inaugurate *International Contributions to Labour Studies* at a propitious time. The collapse of centrally planned economies in the East, economic integration in Europe, and well over a decade of business restructuring within and between the world's market economies has opened long-standing labour market structures and policies to imminent change. Our primary purpose in launching *International Contributions to Labour Studies*, then, is to provide a forum within which scholars and practitioners can assess current changes and policy options in a broadly comparative and historical setting. By publishing articles which analyse and evaluate the experiences of labour in industrial societies across time and space, the editors also hope to contribute to a wide range of current debates over the place of labour and labour market policy in economic growth and democratic governance.

The Editors