

# **Labour and Social Movements under/against a Globalised and Informatised Capitalism**

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**20 Papers on Workers, Women, Unions,  
International Solidarity, Communications  
and Culture**

## **Front Cover Illustration**

The author, presenting a paper to a union/academic conference on ‘The Past and Future of International Trade Unionism’, organised by Amsab/Institute of Social History, Gent, Belgium, 2001.

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- 19. Reflections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (2002)  
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# Introduction

Presented here in chronological order is a set of Working Papers I produced with the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, between the 1980s and the 2000s. What permitted this collection was the Institute's decision to put online not only the computerised Working Papers it had at hand but others it had to scan. At time of writing, these amounted to almost 500. One can view and download them free at <http://biblio.iss.nl/opac/brief.aspx>. One can also be notified of new ones at <http://subscribe.iss.nl/>. I applaud this addition to open access academic resources. What encouraged this collection was, of course, the ease with which digitalised material can be re-wrapped, re-presented and therefore re-published. I did this work, part time, over one week. If I had been a computer whiz, or even computer competent, maybe I would have done it in as many hours.

If these were the permitting conditions, what justifies making my contributions to the series available? Simply that many of the final form versions have been shortened, that they are scattered in books, magazines and journals worldwide, and that many of such are, of course, copyrighted. Some have never reached final-form publication. Let's consider a couple of example papers.

'Holding Mirrors out of Windows' (No 3), which runs to over 80 pages, was finally published in two parts in a small-circulation bulletin, *Democratic Communique*, in 1995, though probably cut and certainly without its appendices. At the time of writing this introduction, the international relations of Cosatu (the Congress of South African Trade Unions) are again becoming a subject of serious reflection, at least for Cosatu itself. Republication of this paper raises the possibility that it could contribute to consideration of international labour and social movement communication and culture within South Africa and more widely.

'International Labour's Y2K Problem (No. 18 above), runs to some 70 pages. I did post it around that time to one of my two experimental websites, where it can still be found at [www.antenna.nl/~waterman/y2kpap.doc](http://www.antenna.nl/~waterman/y2kpap.doc). Google suggests to me, however, that it was never elsewhere published. Since it was offered to but (to the best of my memory) rejected by the International Labour Organisation, the paper represents not only my criticism of the international labour hegemony but also the sensitivity - to even the smallest of pinpricks - of this Vatican-Kremlin-Pentagon of global labour policy.

I have taken the liberty (since, as the feminists would remind us, liberty must be taken) of adding to the database of ISS Working Papers, one entitled 'Hidden from Herstory' (No. 13). This was originally published in 1993 as *Working Paper 17* in a Sub-Series on Women's History and Development, produced by the Women and Development Programme at the ISS. I cannot find this series on the ISS website. Mentioning the matter may lead to it being attended to. The version linked to here was published in the *Occasional Paper* series of Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUML) - regrettably without the relevant bibliography. A complete version,

published in the now-venerable *Economic and Political Weekly* in Mumbai, may still be available via this URL for US\$9: <http://www.jstor.org/pss/4400349>.

At a certain point of time I stopped publishing my working papers with the ISS. Whilst negotiating my latest (last) submission, I was told, privately, that these were being treated by the editors as 'final-form publications'. This did not, of course, stop me producing working papers, if for other institutions, or directly online. I provide below a list of such online sources and resources.

Any comments on either the form or contents of this collection would be welcome. So would further circulation or reproduction – preferably with a formal request to the ISS and a notification to me.

Finally, it is my belief that no trees were killed in the production of this publication. If, unknowingly, I have somehow added to global warming, or to the extraction of surplus value, I would appreciate being informed of the extent and suggestions of how I might compensate for this.

**Peter Waterman**  
**The Hague**  
**August 2009**

## **Personal Page on Choike**

<http://blog.choike.org/eng/tag/peter-waterman>

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