

# Passing the buck:

## Corporate restructuring and the casualisation of employment

### ABSTRACTS

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#### Passing the buck: Corporate restructuring and the casualisation of employment

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##### **ABSTRACT**

This article starts by looking critically at the contested concept of work flexibility, tracing the ambiguities inherent in it to the contradictions embodied in the 'special deals' struck between capital and labour in the third quarter of the 20th century. It then goes on to discuss the new forms of employment casualisation – and resulting precariousness – that have arisen since that period within the 'formal' economy, arising from the processes of financialisation, globalisation and corporate restructuring, before introducing the contents of this volume. It concludes with some general reflections on precariousness.

#### Transnational corporations as financial groups

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##### **ABSTRACT**

Whilst the 2008 crisis provided evidence of the strong (not to say devastating) interrelations between production and finance, giving a boost to the 'financialisation' approach, there is a need, forty years after the initial research on transnational corporations (TNCs), to re-explore the nature of these organisations. Issues that require investigation include the reshaping of international trade and production, the close interactions between non-financial TNCs and financial (bank and non-bank) TNCs, the development of global networks, and the strength of the relationships entertained by most of these companies with 'their' governments. A basic hypothesis of this paper, which is focused on non-financial TNCs, is that they cannot only be defined by the fact that they are bigger and more internationalised than other firms. The paper argues that, on the contrary, they constitute a category of their own, based upon