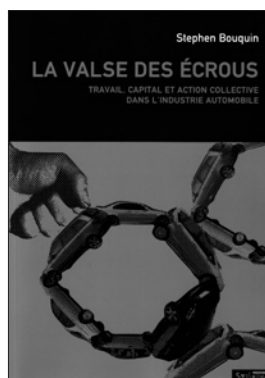


La valse des écrous

Travail, capital et action collective dans l'industrie automobile



How is the face of work organisation changing? Stephen Bouquin argues that it is not just about "push-button" profit maximization or trying to strike a balance between that and labour demands. It is never a foregone conclusion, but emerges in different ways out of the clash between capital and collective labour action. The author builds his case from an analysis of collective action by carworkers. He begins by looking at the models used to analyse the car industry, with a sound critique of the Japanese fallacy. He then moves on to a description of the key changes in work organisation over the past thirty-five years, picking out some of the big issues,

and taking a special look at the use of agency workers and outsourcing in more recent times. The third section reports on ten years of Stephen Bouquin's own investigations of a Renault subcontractor in France and Volkswagen in Belgium. While not the main focus, health and safety at work does come across as one aspect of the clashes analysed by this cogently-argued and enthralling book.

Stephen Bouquin, *La valse des écrous. Travail, capital et action collective dans l'industrie automobile*, Paris, Syllepse, 2006, 306 p.

ISBN : 2-84950-089-5

Les héros sacrifiés du World Trade Center



3000 people died in the attack on the twin towers in Manhattan on September 11th, 2001. Will we ever know how many died from the consequences of clearing away the 1.6 million tons of rubble? Jacqueline Maurette, a reporter for the French magazine *Viva*, describes what it is like to work in a lethal mix of toxic agents including asbestos dust, copper and lead, dioxin, and benzene particles. Far from writing it off as inevitable or down to failings in organisation, she argues that a

deliberate policy was at work to speed up operations to get the Wall Street stock exchange back open for business. Over 8000 people are currently suing for compensation for the health damage suffered during this Herculean task.

Jacqueline Maurette, *Les héros sacrifiés du World Trade Center*, Paris, Jean-Claude Gawsewitch, 2007, 205 p.

ISBN : 978-2-35013-080-4

La santé pour tous

Se réapproprier Alma Ata



This collection reflects the wealth of experiences and thinking of the People's Health Movement, a network of 300 grassroots organisations in over 80 different countries. The common theme to all the issues addressed is the fight against social inequalities of health and reclaiming ownership of health by collective movements from the most downtrodden sectors. Many of the contributions take an outspoken stand against received opinion. An essay on bird flu and large-scale factory farming, several articles on women's

health, and a critique of free trade agreements are cases in point. Nor is health and safety at work overlooked, with contributions on contingent work and its consequences, and the struggle of asbestos victims.

People's Health Movement, *La santé pour tous. Se réapproprier Alma Ata*, Geneva, Cetim, 2007, 331 p.

ISBN : 2-88053-052-0

www.cetim.ch

Come i lavoratori percepiscono le proprie condizioni di lavoro

Indagine tra le aziende dell'Emilia-Romagna

This book presents the key findings of a large-scale survey commissioned by the Italian trade unions in the Emilia-Romagna region. Questionnaires were designed, based on the European working conditions survey done by the Dublin Foundation, and sent out in huge numbers (over 50 000). The response rate was surprisingly high: 10% is usually considered decent for a widely-circulated public questionnaire – this one netted more than 13 000 responses for analysis. While the survey was too wide-ranging to be able to review all the aspects it covered, some dominant trends can be singled out. There is a clear split between manual and non-manual workers as regards the long-term health impacts of working conditions.

A big majority of the manual workers questioned thought they would not be able to keep doing the same job up to the age of 60. There is a separate chapter on postal workers. The book comes with a CD containing several hundred tables detailing the survey findings by different parameters. One regrettable omission is any kind of gender analysis of the results.

Carla Bonora, Davide Dazzi, Francesco Garibaldo, Emilio Rebecchi et Gino Rubini, *Come i lavoratori percepiscono le proprie condizioni di lavoro. Indagine tra le aziende dell'Emilia-Romagna*, Maggioli Editore, 2006
ISBN : 88.387.2387.7

Occupational Health and Public Health

Lessons from the Past – Challenges for the Future

This collection of articles explores how health and safety at work and public health connect and clash. It is divided into four sections. The first looks at the political nature of health. The second inquires into the changing concept of health. The third looks at specific episodes in industry's historical incompatibility with health. The fourth takes a more international view, addressing as wide a range of issues as world vaccine policy and economics, ethnic labour relations in the textile industry between 1950 and 2000, and public health in Spanish colonial Morocco. The book is also a tribute to Antonio Grieco, a pioneer in the revival of industrial medicine in Italy and one of the occupational health

researchers most committed to the ongoing dialogue between labour activists and the scientific community. It is published by Sweden's National Institute for Working Life, recently consigned to the scrap-heap by the right-wing government that took office in September 2006.

Marie C. Nelson (Ed.), *Occupational Health and Public Health. Lessons from the Past – Challenges for the Future*, Stockholm, Arbetslivsinstitutet, 2006, 250 p.

ISBN : 13: 978-91-7045-810-1

It can be downloaded as a free e-book from: http://ebib.arbetslivsinstitutet.se/ah/2006/ah2006_10.pdf

Authors and publishers

If you have written or published a book about the health impacts of working conditions that you think might interest our readers, we'd be glad to receive a review copy. Please send it to:

ETUI-REHS, Denis Grégoire – Health and Safety Department – 5 bd du Roi Albert II – B-1210 Brussels
For more information: dgregoire@etui-rehs.org

Santé & Travail: new look to boost readership

The magazine *Santé & Travail* has been a beacon of information on working conditions in France for a general audience since 1991. In a bid to expand its readership and tie health and safety at work more solidly into public health, it gave itself a makeover in January 2007, which included upping its print run from 5000 to 30 000 and slashing 40% off the annual subscription price.

"The magazine now has backing from a consortium of sickness insurance organizations who will be sending it out to their members", says *Santé & Travail*'s editor François Desriaux. This broader support from French health maintenance organizations forms part of an approach aimed at "better informing a lay public".

For that, *Santé & Travail* is also getting editorial support from another heavyweight partner, the economic review *Alternatives économiques*,

whose sympathies lie with the French anti-freemarket movement. "It isn't just a technical partnership. These are people that we've long shared the same philosophy of information with", explains François Desriaux.

Subscriptions: www.sante-et-travail.com

