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Note from Special Issue Editors

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Note from Special Issue Editors

Welcome to this special issue, *Gendering the Labor Market: Women's Struggles in the Global Labor Force*. This issue follows from a call for papers in July 2020 and, given the volume of papers submitted, represents one of two compilations of submitted papers that address the topic. The second volume is planned for October 2021.

In this volume, are nine original articles, along with a selected group of book reviews and book review essays. The articles highlight issues specific to Korea, Turkey, Peru, South Africa, Europe, Spain, and India, and focus on aspects unique to women's experience and common to women across geographies.

Liz Jonas in *Crafted for the Male Gaze: Gender Discrimination in the K-Pop Industry* addresses the overt and sexualized oppression resulting from female objectification in Korea and how this has commoditized and marginalized women. Her discussion is focused to the popular music industry but provides understanding of how the characteristics of the industry have affected the perception of women in general. Gözde Ersoz and Meltem Ince-Yenilmez provide insight with respect to how gender roles and limitations in the highly visible Turkish sports industry affect and maintain pre-existing patriarchal perspectives, and the opportunity that greater gender representation in visible roles provides with respect to overt Turkish policies to promote gender equity.

In *"Not Women's Work": Gendered Labor, Political Subjectivity and Motherhood*, Mary Wilhoit evaluates cultural perceptions and preconceptions related to women's employment in Peru. Her findings support that women are not necessarily tied to informal sector employment, rather they are fixed on employment in order to provide support to their children and families, as such they will seek opportunity as available prompting modification in what defines "women's work." Odile Mackett discusses the impact of child rearing and unpaid domestic work in South Africa in *Quality of work and unpaid reproductive labour in the South African labour market*. Her research conclusions support pre-existing literature and perceptions specific to the trade-off between unpaid work and labor market value, essentially highlighting that women are penalized in the labor force for assuming gendered domestic responsibilities.

Heather Montes in *'Noble Mothers' and their Others: Racialized Women Entrepreneurs and Poverty Finance* addresses the misconceptions of microfinance as a poverty salve and highlights short-comings and conditions for access to finance. The article highlights the significance of context in policy-making and the pitfalls related to the application of initiatives in the absence of its consideration. María De Las Mercedes in *Characterization of European female informal investors* addresses the relationship between women and finance from an alternative perspective, highlighting the role of women investors in Europe, their characteristics, and their under reported and discussed contributions.

Abdul -Malik Abdulai, Ayten Ceter, and Israel Nyaburi Nydera provide a discussion of women's representation in Turkish politics, which is complimented by Eva Bermudez-Figueroa's discussion,

Gendering the public sector: Women's status in local administrations. A case study from Spain. Both articles address public offices while *Does Gender Matter? Job Stress, Work-Life Balance, Health and Job Satisfaction among University Teachers in India* authored by Sandip Solanki and Meeta Mandaviya, as the final article in this issue, provides insight on the differences related to job stress and coping mechanisms between men and women employed in India's public education system.

In completing the description of this issue, we acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of our book reviewers: Aynur Erzenoglu, Maxcy Grasso, Zahra Hashemiolya, Isabella Chawrun, Khadijah Kanji, and Hao Zhang all of whom have reviewed books specific to their area of interest and expertise and have provided thoughtful insights into the texts reviewed. The books reviewed, just as the *Journal of International Women's Studies*, provides an overview of research specific to women across the globe, within their country of origin and in foreign lands.

This special issue evaluates the global labor market from the perspective of gender equity and equality. We hope you will find that the articles and reviews provided facilitate your interest in gender-focused economic evaluation, while also highlighting the significance of culture and environmental factors in appreciating that there is room to question a market-based approach to equity and equality conditions. In other words, is the intention of equity financial value or economic value? If it is the latter, qualitative attributes are as significant as quantitative measures.

We encourage your communication on these topics and thank you for your readership.

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