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GLAWCAL #361  
COMMENT

## LESSONS FROM THE GLOBAL NORTH

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*Based on*

**Eeva Houtbeckers and Tiina Taipale**  
**“Conceptualising Worker Agency for**  
**the Challenges of the Anthropocene:**  
**Examples from Recycling Work in the**  
**Global North”**



**gLAWcal**  
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



**Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

A gLAWcal comment on Eeva Houtbeckers and Tiina Taipale "Conceptualising Worker Agency for the Challenges of the Anthropocene: Examples from Recycling Work in the Global North" in Pasi Heikkurinen (Ed.) **Sustainability and Peaceful Coexistence for the Anthropocene.**

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Another metric that can be employed for improving the working standards of members of the industry would be to encourage changes in overall behaviors that are counter to the current standards of work across the board. This includes changes in employer-employee relationships. Of note, adopting more collectivist ideas of labor would be one of the more radical approaches to creating a solution to this goal. Worker agency would be promoted heavily in collectivist ideals because of the very nature of how there is a blurred line between labor and the means of production. However, there are often cited examples of collectivist business strategies that are able to succeed in the broader capitalist culture that exists. These include allowing employees to own shares in the business, acting as the board of directors for their own organization that they work for. Additional strategies are cited include basic income policies and self-employment. These other strategies have gotten traction to varying degrees. Self-employment is a scenario by which a single employee owns their business and provide both the

labor and the means of production. While it is not infinitely scalable, the traditional capitalist models are not either. Basic income policies provide an assurance that there is a reliable amount of money that is paid to an individual with no other requirements, unlike how many other welfare procedures operate. This is a new take on a social safety net, providing a new model by which central governments and their citizens think of one another.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

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