CHAINGE LAB: LABOUR LAW FOR A GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN ECONOMY
European Research Council (ERC) Research Project (Consolidator)
PI: Prof. Hila Shamir, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University

Call for Applications
Post-Doctoral, Doctoral, and Visiting Research Fellowships, and Research Hub Membership
(all with Options for Remote Participation) 2024-2025
Deadline for Applications: August 15, 2024

ChainGE Lab: Labour Law for a Global Value Chain Economy, a research project funded by a European Research Council Grant (ERC CoG) and directed by Prof. Hila Shamir (Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law), invites candidates from a variety of disciplines to submit their applications to join the project's research team. We are looking for:

- Post-doctoral fellows.
- Visiting researchers at different stages of their academic career. We especially encourage application of early-career candidates (including doctoral students, post-doctoral students, and faculty at other institutions).
- Individuals interested in pursuing a doctoral degree are invited to reach out to us to learn more about funded PhD opportunities as part of this project: chaincaplab@gmail.com.

About ChainGE Lab

ChainGE Lab (ERC) is a five-year interdisciplinary research project running from September 2024 to September 2029. The project addresses workers' collective power, and the challenges of labour law within the context of supply chain capitalism. Our goal is to learn from, and collaborate with, existing workers' rights initiatives in both domestic and Global Value Chains (GVCs) to envision new institutional and legal frameworks to supports workers' collective power in GVCs.

Traditional labour law, originally developed to regulate employment contracts and balance the power disparity between employers and employees, was designed with an industrial ("Fordist") employment model in mind. This model is increasingly incongruent with the power structures of today's supply and production networks. In the era of supply chain capitalism, the direct employer often functions as a supplier within a GVC, no longer being the primary power holder with whom workers can negotiate to improve working conditions. ChainGE Lab is dedicated to developing an analytical, normative, and doctrinal framework that would re-conceptualize the role of workers, labour law, and labour institutions within GVC governance. This framework aims to address the complexities and power dynamics of contemporary supply chain capitalism. For a comprehensive overview of the project, see Prof. Shamir's presentation here.

Applicants' fields and areas of research

Applicants should have knowledge and experience in fields of research relevant to the ChainGE Lab research focus, including law, sociology, anthropology, geography, industrial relations, political science, migration studies, economics, and business management. Applicants should have

the ability and desire to conduct interdisciplinary research individually and as part of a research team, and actively contribute to a collaborative academic community.

We welcome research that focuses on a wide range of issues including:
- Workers' rights and corporate power
- Transnational labour organizing
- Global Framework Agreements
- Multiparty collective bargaining
- Workers driven social responsibility initiatives
- Trade bans and labour clauses in trade agreements
- Anti-trust and the regulation of employers' monopsonistic power
- Supply chain procurement legislation
- Cooperatives in GVCs
- Innovative strategies for workers' rights enforcement in GVCs
- Jurisdictional challenges and solutions in enforcement of transnational labour governance
- Remedies to workers' rights violations in GVCs
- Transnational litigation and arbitration regarding workers' rights in GVCs

The working language at ChainGE Lab is English.

What we expect from Post-Doctoral fellows
Successful applicants will be expected to both develop and pursue their own research within the overarching research agenda of the ChainGE project, as well as contribute to the ongoing research project led by Prof. Shamir. Members will be asked to participate and present their work in Lab workshops and seminars on a regular basis and actively participate in collaborative research.

Considering the global and comparative nature of the work, and the current situation in the region, we are flexible with residency requirements and can reach individually tailored arrangements.

Key selection criteria for the positions are previous research experience relating to labour governance and worker organizing in supply chains (including organizing in non-standard work arrangements, or labour perspectives in business and human rights research), analytical skills, methodological abilities, and the capacity for teamwork as well as independent research.

Application information for Post-Doctoral fellows:

- Fellowship starting date: Flexible. Earliest start date: **March 1, 2025**.
- Fellowship period is for one academic year, with a possible option of extending the fellowship to two years.

- Scholarship rate: Approx. US $40,000 per year. Rates are determined according to Tel Aviv University (TAU) regulations: For more information, please visit https://acad-sec.tau.ac.il/phd/Postdoc.
- Application Deadline: **August 15, 2024.**

All applications should be submitted by email to chaincaplab@gmail.com; and should include the following documents:

1. Cover letter describing your interest in the project, and relevant research experience.
2. Detailed CV (including a list of publications).
3. A preliminary research proposal (in English; up to 3 pages) for a research project you hope to pursue as part of ChainGE Lab.
4. Academic writing sample (article, research paper, or dissertation chapter).
5. Two letters of recommendation that speak to the applicant's qualifications for postdoctoral research. These may be sent directly to hshamir@tauex.tau.ac.il and to chaincaplab@gmail.com
6. A verification that the candidate was awarded a PhD degree in the last five years (noting the date it was awarded), or that by the time they wish to begin their fellowship they will complete all PhD requirements and submit their dissertation.

Application information for visiting researchers:

ChainGE Lab aims to be a research hub for scholars working on issues of workers' rights and collective power under supply chain capitalism for both academic and policy circles. For this purpose, we seek to host external researchers – including early-career researchers and research-activists - for short research visits of up to 6 months either at TAU or at another agreed-upon location. Visiting researchers can receive funding to cover travel and accommodation expenses and/or research expenses of up to $5000. If you choose to come to TAU we will also offer office space and access to campus facilities.

- Duration: Flexible. Minimum 2 weeks.
- We welcome researchers from diverse methodological backgrounds, and at all stages of their academic careers, with an emphasis on early career scholars or activists engaging in research.
- Application Deadline: We will begin to review a first round of applications on **August 15 2024,** and will continue to review applications on a rolling basis given available funding.
- All applications should be submitted to chaincaplab@gmail.com; and include the following documents:
    1. Cover letter describing your interest in the project and stating the nature and duration of position you seek with us.
    2. Detailed CV (including list of publications).
    3. A preliminary research proposal (1-2 pages) for a research project you hope to pursue during your visit.

4. *Doctoral candidates* who are interested in visiting us are required to send two letters of recommendation, including one from their dissertation supervisor.

Participating in the ChainGE Lab Research Collaboratory:

As part of ChainGE Lab, we are establishing a research collaboratory—an academic community for scholars working in the field of workers' rights in Global Value Chains (GVCs). The core activity of this group will consist of monthly online sessions, which will include presentation and feedback on work in progress, as well as discussions about the ethical, methodological, and other challenges that arise in group members' research.

Our goal is to create a space for interdisciplinary conversation among scholars at various career stages. We aim to foster collaboration, networking, access to resources, and a supportive, rigorous academic community.

The research collaboratory is open to anyone researching or otherwise engaging in issues related to workers' rights in global supply chains, whether academics or research-activists, at any stages of their careers. If you are interested in joining, please send us an email introducing yourself. Please include in the email information about the organization or institution you are affiliated with, your background, your research or experience in this field, your main areas of interest, and what you hope to contribute to, and gain from, participating in the research collaboratory.

Please email chaincaplab@gmail.com with the subject line: ChainGE Research Hub.

For information about Prof. Shamir's previous ERC funded research, TraffLab: Labor Perspectives to Human Trafficking, visit www.trafflab.org.