



SURAJ MAL AND SHYAMA DEVI AGARWAL BOOK PRIZE 2021

HONOURABLE MENTION

Stephanie Barrientos

Gender and Work in Global Value Chains: Capturing the Gains?
Cambridge University Press, 2020

“The judges were unanimous in their admiration for Stephanie Barrientos’s *Gender and Work in Global Value Chains: Capturing the Gains?* The book richly deserves an honourable mention. In this major contribution to feminist economics, Barrientos shows how the gendering of global value chains has changed the world of work and shaped the international economy over the past three decades.

An established authority on global value chains, Barrientos goes beyond her earlier writings in this book to develop an analytical framework which draws on global production networks, feminist political economy, and labour studies. Her framework enables an exploration of how socially-embedded gendered boundaries are shifting between spheres of commercial production and social reproduction and affecting gendered patterns of work in both the global North and global South in the international retail value chains. Importantly, Barrientos does not flinch in identifying winners as well as losers from these organizational shifts.

Given the way in which the rise of contemporary retail and global sourcing is rapidly transforming the world of work, Barrientos’ magisterial intervention is timely. It is also panoramic in its range across countries, sectors, and products. The book provides fascinating insights into the working and living conditions of workers in industries as diverse as cocoa, horticulture, and garments. These studies are deeply empirical, representing many years of extensive field research. Barrientos is also passionate about improving the exploitative conditions under which workers labour in the global value chains and argues for innovative governance systems involving continuous engagement and negotiation between the different stakeholders.

This book epitomizes Stephanie Barrientos’s extraordinary work over her career in the area of global value chains, which will be of immense interest to feminist political economists, sociologists, labour studies, and policy makers in the decades to come. ”

The Judges

Professor Stephanie Seguino, Department of Economics, University of Vermont (chair)

Dr. Uma Rani, Senior Economist, International Labour Office, Geneva

Professor Jane Humphries, All Souls College, Oxford University