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International Review of Social History (ISSN 0020-8590) is published in three issues in April, August and December plus one special issue per year. Three issues plus one special issue form a volume. The subscription price (excluding VAT) of volume 68 (2023) which includes electronic access and delivery by air where appropriate is £282 net (US\$480 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions; £75 net (US\$120 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) for individuals ordering direct from the publisher and certifying that the journal is for their own personal use. Single issues and the special issue are £111 (US\$188 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage. An electronic only price available to institutional subscribers is £201 (US\$346 in USA, Canada, and Mexico). EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan.

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Information on *International Review of Social History* and all other Cambridge journals can be accessed via cambridge.org

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

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What is the historical role of punishment in the management of labour? This is the central question of this Special Issue. In order to answer this question, the contributors look into the histories of blinded slaves in ancient Mesopotamia, flogged peasant farmers in pharaonic Egypt, convict officers in the prisons of colonial India, and blacklisted factory workers in the nineteenth-century United States, as well as rural workers in the medieval Frankish kingdoms, soldiers and domestic servants in early modern Scandinavia, working children in colonial Bolivia, textile workers in Lombardy, enslaved Africans in Brazil and the US, and household workers in Late Imperial China. The introduction suggests ways to compare the role of punishment in the management of labour across space and time. The editors claim that the effective management of labour required the systematic differentiation of the workforce; to that end, the imposition of diversified forms of punishment did not merely reflect existing labour distinctions, but also contributed to their creation.

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ISBN 978-1-0094-2134-8



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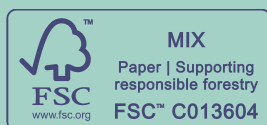
Punishing Workers, Managing Labour

Edited by Christian de Vito, Adam Fagbore, and Eric Vanhaute

- 1 Introduction: Punitive Perspectives on Labour Management
Christian G. De Vito and Adam S. Fagbore
- 15 Punishment for the Coercion of Labour during the Ur III Period
J. Nicholas Reid
- 33 Regulating Labour through Foreign Punishment? Codification and Sanction at Work in New Kingdom Egypt
Alexandre A. Loktionov
- 53 Punishment, Patronage, and the Revenue Extraction Process in Pharaonic Egypt
Adam Simon Fagbore
- 73 Corporal Punishment at Work in the Early Middle Ages: The Frankish Kingdoms (Sixth through Tenth Centuries)
Alice Rio
- 93 Moving to Your Place: Labour Coercion and Punitive Violence against Minors under Guardianship (Charcas, Sixteenth through Eighteenth Centuries)
Paola A. Revilla Orías
- 109 Status, Power, and Punishments: “Household Workers” in Late Imperial China
Claude Chevaleyre
- 135 “They Have No Property to Lose”: The Impasse of Free Labour in Lombard Silk Manufactures (1760–1810)
Lorenzo Avellino
- 157 Mercenary Punishment: Penal Logics in the Military Labour Market
Johan Heinsen
- 177 Absolute Obedience: Servants and Masters on Danish Estates in the Nineteenth Century
Dorte Kook Lyngholm
- 197 The Political Economy of Punishment: Slavery and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Brazil and the United States
Marcelo Rosanova Ferraro
- 213 The 1886 Southwest Railroad Strike, J. West Goodwin’s Law and Order League, and the Blacklisting of Martin Irons
Chad Pearson
- 237 Caught In-Between: Coerced Intermediaries in the Jails of Colonial India
Michaela Dimmers

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