

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

**WORK UNTIL YOU DIE:  
THE EFFECTS OF THE 2016 COUP ON THE BRAZILIAN WORKING CLASS**

with

**WILLIAM J. MELLO**

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Latin American

Research Forum



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Without a doubt, the 2016 coup against democratically elected president Dilma Rousseff (PT) was an overall attack on Brazilian democracy and the country's institutions. The coup, however, had a very specific target, Brazilian workers and the poor, their unions, and their social movements. A central characteristic of the coup was the introduction of massive changes to the basic labor protections once enjoyed by workers, the legal structure that shapes relations between employers and workers, and the very way work is performed. At the center of these political setbacks is a fundamental contradiction between neoliberalism, the rights of workers and the ongoing battle to consolidate democracy in Brazil.

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