

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910633952703321
Autore	Werbner Pnina
Titolo	The Making of an African Working Class : : Politics, Law, and Cultural Protest in the Manual Workers' Union of Botswana / / Pnina Werbner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[s.l.] : , : Pluto Press, , 2014
ISBN	1-78371-179-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Soggetti	Law / Labor & Employment Law
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	<p>It is now 50 years since E.P. Thompson published his classic, <i>The Making of the English Working Class</i>. <i>The Making of an African Working Class</i> follows Thompson in exploring the formation of working class identity among low-paid African workers. In arguing for a radical public anthropology of worker identity, the book seeks to analyse the cultural, legal, ideological and experiential dimensions of labour activism often neglected in other labour studies. Pnina Werbner shows that by fusing cosmopolitan and local popular cultural forms of protest, unionists have created a distinctive, vernacular way of being a worker in Botswana: one that does not deny workers' roots at home or in the countryside, while being cognisant of a wider world of cosmopolitan labour rights. The assertion of working class dignity, honour and respect, Pnina argues, is a powerful motivating force for manual workers. Against legal-sceptical approaches, <i>The Making of an African Working Class</i> argues that in challenging the government - their employer - in court, manual workers' protests and mobilisation are deeply embedded in ethics, social justice and the law.</p>