

CALL FOR PAPERS

Work Matters: 28th Annual International Labour Process Conference Rutgers University, March 15-17, 2010

SPECIAL INTEREST STREAM: Are bad jobs inevitable?

Despite or perhaps because of the recession, job quality has again become an issue. Until recently, government and academic interest has focussed on good jobs with high skill and high pay. However, evidence suggests a polarisation across the developed economies with good jobs and bad jobs. The latter are typically characterised by low skill, pay and prospects. They are often inadequately protected by collective bargaining and employment law. Often these jobs involve vulnerable workers, many of whom are female or racial/ethnic minorities, with low or no qualifications are often part-time and work in the retail, hospitality, health and social care sectors.

Labour process analysis has long sought to explore and explain why bad jobs exist and has implicitly been concerned about improving such jobs. The aim of this stream is to generate discussion between different perspectives on bad jobs, including the labour process tradition, the low-wage work research agenda, and analyses of tradeoffs between quality and quantity of jobs. We ambitiously seek to attract papers from sociology, economics, industrial relations and related disciplines as well as from practitioners looking at:

- Defining and measuring bad jobs
- How to explain variation and change in job quality across sectors and countries
- Generating better understanding of the practices and policies that might make bad jobs more bearable
- Generating better understanding of the levers and obstacles to workers exiting bad jobs into better jobs
- Exploring the policies and strategies for making bad jobs better
- Identifying any gaps in the evidence base and so future research agendas

Papers can be conceptual, empirical and/or policy-focused.

Stream Organisers:

- Chris Warhurst, University of Strathclyde, UK.
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The Conference:

The Annual International Labour Process Conference is a leading conference on work and employment. It brings together academics and policy makers from the sociology of work and employment, labour studies, business and management, human resource management, industrial relations, organization studies and a range of other disciplines. Selections of conference papers are published in edited books, with twenty now published. It is intended that a selection of papers from the women's work stream will be published in a journal special edition. Abstracts for the stream should be between 350-500 words and can be either theoretical and/or empirical. Abstract contents should enable the referees to determine what issue, development or problem is being investigated, how it is investigated, what the findings are and what contribution is being made to understanding in the field.

ILPC 2008 Conference Organizers:

Prof. Eileen Appelbaum

Prof. Adrienne Eaton

Dean David Finegold

Dr. Mary Gatta

For questions about the conference please contact: ilpc2010@ilpc.org.uk

Please submit to www.ilpc.org.uk by October 31, 2009