

# 30<sup>th</sup> International Labour Process Conference 2012



Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, 27-29<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Call for papers now open at: [www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)  
Abstract Submission Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October**

The International Labour Process Conference is one of the longest established and best known forums for analysis of all aspects of work and employment, now celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During its history, the conference has earned its reputation as a cornerstone of empirical research and cutting edge theoretical debate within the labour process and work organization tradition. Every year, the conference brings together academics, policy makers and practitioners from the sociology of work and employment, business and management studies, industrial relations, human resource management, organizational analysis and a range of other disciplines to discuss developments in the field, present their research and initiate new collaborations.

The primary focus of the ILPC conference is work and its organization in the context of the broader political economy. We particularly welcome submissions on:

- Labour process and other critical theories of work relations;
- The meaning, value, quality and experience of work;
- The restructuring of work, corporations and employment relations;
- Changing skills and knowledge;
- Gender, ethnicity and class at work;
- The nature and impact of information technology;
- Power, control and consent in organizations;
- Work-life boundaries;
- Financialisation, contractualisation and changing working demands;
- Employee participation and involvement;
- Trade union strategies and organizing;
- Resistance and misbehaviour;
- Productivity, decent work and justice
- Welfare, QWL and competitiveness;
- Critical working life research: preconditions and strategies;
- Management in context: Moving beyond national management styles

All abstracts must be 350-500 words in length. Abstracts are externally refereed and papers must not have been previously published or presented elsewhere. Abstracts to general conference and special streams are submitted at [www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk) by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2011**. Please follow the online instructions.

## Special Streams

Apart from the general conference, the 2012 ILPC conference will have four special streams:

- *Lean in Ideology and in Practice*
- *Putting Labour in its Place-Global Value Chains and Labour Process Analysis*
- *Work or Nature? Climate Change, Green jobs, the Labour Process and Labour Movement Responses*
- *Global Capitalism, National Institutions and the Comparative Political Economy of Work and Employment Relations*

## Call for Symposia

We welcome proposals for symposia. Each symposium will be a self-contained session of one and a half hours in lengths. The conference organizers are open-minded about how this should be used. Please submit proposals, less than 750 words, to [ilpc.admin@ilpc.org.uk](mailto:ilpc.admin@ilpc.org.uk).

*The deadline for submissions of abstracts and symposia proposals is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2011** and decisions on acceptance will be made in December*

## Doctoral Student Workshop

As previous years, the conference will include a pre-conference workshop for doctoral students. For more information, see [www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)

## The Venue

The conference will be held in the Aula Magna building at Stockholm University, located in a National Park ten min. from Stockholm city centre.

## Conference Organizers

**Fredrik Movitz**

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*Registration for the conference will open in  
December 2011*



[ilpc.admin@ilpc.org.uk](mailto:ilpc.admin@ilpc.org.uk)  
[www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk)  
blog: [ilpc2012stockholm.wordpress.com](http://ilpc2012stockholm.wordpress.com).

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## **Lean in Ideology and in Practice**

In the last years, we have seen a rapid diffusion of Japanese production systems and Lean systems in the manufacturing sector, healthcare and civil services, etc. However, there are different interpretations and attitudes to these systems, and their claimed effects on the work system, in Western societies, for instance in Britain and in Scandinavia. In this stream we raise questions such as: What make Lean mean? Does Lean always have to be mean?

**Organisers:** Per Sederblad ([per.sederblad@mah.se](mailto:per.sederblad@mah.se)), Lena Abrahamsson, Mikael Brännmark, Andy Danford

## **Putting Labour in its Place: Global Value Chains and Labour Process Analysis**

We are seeking abstracts from researchers who are striving to combine 'Global Value Chain' (GVC) or 'Global Production Network' (GPN) approaches with labour process analysis. Labour either as value creator or as agency (collective or otherwise) remains frustratingly absent from GCC/GVC approaches. Theoretical papers exploring the problematic of integrating GVC/GPN and labour process analysis are thus welcome, as are abstracts from those reporting empirical findings, albeit informed by these conceptual concerns. Although studies at the transnational scale are self-evidently important, those focused on the intra-national, regional or local scales are also encouraged. We welcome contributions from scholars working in diverse disciplines and fields of study, including human and economic geography, development studies, comparative political economy, gender studies, as well as more established labour process territory of the sociology of work and industrial/employment relations. The aim is to encourage a critical engagement between those who acknowledge the salience of core labour theory and others for whom participation at the ILPC may be a new experience

**Organisers:** Phil Taylor ([philip.taylor@strath.ac.uk](mailto:philip.taylor@strath.ac.uk)), Kirsty Newsome, Al Rainnie

## **Work or Nature? Climate Change, Green jobs, the Labour Process and Labour Movement Responses**

What effects will climate change have on the labour process in terms of e.g. skills and needs for reskilling? What effects do new, so-called green, technologies have on workers' forms of cooperation, knowledge and hierarchical relations at the workplace? There is evidence that green jobs can be as exploitative and unhealthy as "dirty" jobs. How can green jobs also become decent jobs? We need research analysing the ways in which workers and unions can *act* rather than just *react*; become agents of change that transform existing production processes into environmentally sustainable *and* socially sustainable production that offer decent working conditions.

**Organisers:** Nora Räthzel ([Nora.Rathzel@soc.umu.se](mailto:Nora.Rathzel@soc.umu.se)), David Uzzell

## **The Comparative Political Economy of Work and Employment Relations**

Comparative political economy focuses on how the functioning of national economies may be explained by distinct institutional frameworks, historical trajectories, etc. However, there is a tendency to focus on analyzing comparative macro-level economic and national models, neglecting the diversity of labour processes, work arrangements and employment relations. A methodological nationalism further endures despite increasing internationalization. National institutions do remain important, but are transformed by e.g. the globalization of finance, with implications for the comparative political economy of work and employment relations. We therefore seek abstracts on how micro-level labour process/ workplace and meso-level employment relations analysis contribute to understanding comparative political economy.

**Organisers:** Marco Hauptmeier ([hauptmeierm@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:hauptmeierm@cardiff.ac.uk)), Matt Vidal

To read more about the general conference and special streams, and to submit abstracts (350-500 words in length), please visit the ILPC-website: [www.ilpc.org.uk](http://www.ilpc.org.uk). Abstracts are externally refereed and papers must not have been previously published or presented elsewhere. Decisions on acceptance will be made in December 2011. Please follow the online instructions. You are also welcome to visit the conference blog: [ilpc2012stockholm.wordpress.com](http://ilpc2012stockholm.wordpress.com) for updates and dialogue.

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