

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Varieties of Workplace Democracy: from specific models to a political economy”

WORKSHOP

7-9 June 2023

Centre Marc Bloch (Humboldt University Berlin)

When: 7-9 June 2023

Where: Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin

Organization: This workshop is organised within the framework of the research project “Workplace democracy: a European ideal? Discourses and practices about the democratization of work after 1945 ([EUR-DEM](#))”, led by Stefan Berger (Institute for Social Movements / Ruhr-University Bochum) and Roberto Frega (Centre Marc Bloch). This project is funded by ANR (Association National de la Recherche) and DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft).

Convenor: Pedro Teixeira ([Centre Marc Bloch](#))

Confirmed keynote speakers: Wolfgang Streeck (Max Planck Institute), Ruth Dukes (University of Glasgow)

Description: The goal of democratizing the workplace continues to inform both actual struggles and intellectual discourses about the sphere of work. However, compared to similar debates held some decades ago, today’s theoretical landscape concerning workplace democracy is significantly wider, with a variety of models and practices vying to be seen as the best promoters of a more democratic workplace. In fact, alongside historically established models such as those of collective bargaining between employers and trade unions, or the German-based model of co-determination, other approaches such as those of co-operatives, workers’ self-management, stakeholder participation, co-management and financial participation schemes (*profit sharing*, etc.) have been enjoying greater attention in recent years. Yet, while we now possess a deeper understanding of the several possible interpretations of workplace democracy, and the concrete practices and institutional forms these may assume, the question as to how each of these models is to be integrated into a wider, more comprehensive political economy – including its legal and institutional frameworks – remains understudied.

This workshop shall therefore focus on the links between the umbrella notion of workplace democracy, namely in its contemporary translation into several models (e.g. trade unions, co-determination, self-management, co-operatives, workers’ voice), and the wider political economy into which it must be embedded. In particular, the workshop will address two major topics related to the implementation of workplace democracy in the context of advanced and complex capitalist economies:

- *The Political Economy of Workplace Democracy*
- *Workplace Democracy and Solidarity*

We invite the submission of abstracts on the following topics and questions (but not limited to):

- a. Models of workplace, economic industrial or post-industrial democracy;
- b. What is the influence of circumstances external to the democratic workplace – e.g. macroeconomic conditions, technological possibilities – on promoting or discouraging workplace democracy?
- c. How does climate change affect the prospect of a more democratic workplace, given the transformations the former requires in the spheres of production and consumption?
- d. What, if any, should be the role of the state in the attempts to democratise the economy?
- e. To what extent can workplace democracy improve the integration between capitalism and democracy?
- f. What is the relation between workplace democracy, social democracy and socialism in today's complex economies?
- g. Which role should trade unions have in our post-industrial societies?
- h. What is the impact of new communication and network technologies (e.g. blockchain) on existing forms of workplace democracy?
- i. Workplace democracy and socio-economic experimentation;
- j. What is the role of solidarity in the sphere of work?
- k. What is the role of civic associations, professional orders and corporations in bringing about a more democratic workplace?

Format

The workshop will take place in-person. Each day will feature two invited lectures and there will be some open slots for submitted papers. We invite the participation of PhD students, postdoctoral scholars, and established researchers to join us in the discussion and present their ongoing work on these topics. Abstract proposals should not exceed 400 words. Please send your submissions ((including a short biographical note) to: pedro.teixeira@cmb.hu-berlin.de

Submission deadline: February 30th, 2023

Notification of acceptance: March 2023

Funding: We have a limited budget to cover reasonable travel and accommodation expenses.

For other queries, please contact: pedro.teixeira@cmb.hu-berlin.de