

management revue

call for papers

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Special Issue

The future of trade unions in Europe

Trade Unions have been important institutions of industrial society. Membership numbers peaked in the late 1970s and then experienced a long decline which only seems to be coming to an end recently. The reasons for membership losses are manifold, they include changes in society's values, such as membership in traditional organizations, to new values of individualization, personal responsibility and self-realisation. In addition, processes of global and regional integration have altered the basic principles for trade unions' actions. Under the guise of 'competitiveness', European governments have cut back on social benefits and questioned major accomplishments of labour organisations. As long as neo-liberal thinking was main-stream, trade unions were considered to be slowing down progress, if not obsolete. This way of thinking has changed rapidly since the start of the financial crisis in 2008. Trust in the invisible hand of the free markets is sinking, at the same time, public acceptance of unions is rising again and membership numbers are stabilizing.

In the special issue and the corresponding seminar, we would like to discuss 'The Future of Trade Unions in Europe' in an adequately broad and interdisciplinary way. We are particularly interested in questions such as:

- What were the reasons for the long-term decline of European trade unions?
- Which new forms of collective action have emerged that address contemporary issues of globalized trade and commerce networks?
- What is the role of trade unions in the financial crisis? Could they become drivers of a profound and sustainable reorganization of western market economies?
- Which alliances should European trade unions form in order to address the problem mentioned above? How can they counteract the race to the bottom in European social policy?
- Are there new innovative and sustainable ways of improving membership?
- How do European trade unions effectively include unemployed persons and movements?

The list is not comprehensive.

Deadline:

Potential contributors to the workshop at the IUC Dubrovnik (28th March - 1st April 2011, <http://www.iuc.hr/courses.php>) are encouraged to contact the guest editors directly with an abstract of 1-2 pages before January 31st. A limited amount of travel grants for scholars of German universities is available.

Full papers for this special edition of the 'management revue' must be with the editors by May 31st 2011. All contributions will be subject to a double-blind review. Papers invited to a 'revise and resubmit' are due September 30st 2011. Please submit your papers electronically to matiaske@hsu-hh.de at using as subject 'management revue'.

Hoping to hear from you

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