

Special Issue

Labor History—History of Industrial Relations

Message from the Guest Editors

The study of labor history and the history of industrial relations has traditionally focused on the changing relations between workers, employers, and the state. However, recent global developments—technological transformation, crisis of traditional trade unionism, emergence of new forms of labor precarity—have renewed interest in understanding how historical patterns of collective organization, negotiation, and conflict continue to shape today's world of work. The special issue offers essential insights into how societies have organised production, regulated conflict, and negotiated social justice. Labour history traditionally examines workers' collective agency, class formation, and trade unionism, while industrial relations history focuses on institutional arrangements governing employment, bargaining, and regulation. The issue will highlight how historical developments in employment relations illuminate contemporary debates about labor markets, democracy at work, and social justice

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