

Programme



IAAEU
Institute for Labour Law
and Industrial Relations
in the European Union

Workshop on Trade Unions and Migration

Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union | Trier University

Workshop on Trade Unions and Migration

17th December, 2021

Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in
the European Union (IAAEU)
Trier University, Campus II
Behringstraße 21
54296 Trier

Welcome to the Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union

The Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) was established as a public foundation in 1983 and is funded by the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate. While being a public foundation, the IAAEU is also a research institute of Trier University and is situated in the heart of the Petrisberg Technology Park on Campus II. The IAAEU comprises two working groups of which one engages in research in the area of European labour law (Legal Team) and one engages in the theoretical and empirical analysis of personnel and labour economic issues (Economics Team). Depending on the research questions and the available data the economists rely on experimental data drawn from the experiments conducted in the institute's laboratory or on survey and corporate data. Since January 2012 Laszlo Goerke is one of the directors of the IAAEU and head of the Chair of Personnel Economics at Trier University. He is also a research fellow of the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) and the CESifo Group Munich.

For detailed information have a look at our [website](#).

About TriECON

TriECON is a workshop series initiated and conceptualized by the Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) in cooperation with the Chair of Personnel Economics at Trier University. Each workshop is designed to offer a platform for scientific exchange on a particular topic. The workshop series supports the networking among scientists and promotes the exchange of research ideas and results with other scientists as well as with the wider, interested public.

We hope you have a pleasant event and that you will you get some new insights!

For information about the upcoming workshops, we invite you to visit the corresponding [website](#).

Registration

For registration, please subscribe via [this form](#).

You will receive a confirmation email once your registration is noted.

The workshop will take place online via Zoom software. Information on how to log in will be sent around one day before the workshop.

Please refer to page 9 for more organizational information.

Schedule – Workshop on Trade Unions and Migration

Friday, December 17th 2021

09:15 – 09:30	Welcome and Opening
09:30 – 10:50	Session I
10:50 – 11:00	General Discussion + Short Break
11:00 – 12:20	Session II
12:20 – 13:30	General Discussion + Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:50	Session III
14:50 – 15:00	General Discussion + Short Break
15:00 – 16:20	Session IV
16:20 – 16:30	General Discussion
16:30	Farewell and Networking

Programme

09:15 – 09:30 **Welcome and Opening**

09:30 – 10:50 **SESSION I:** *(SESSION CHAIR: LASZLO GOERKE)*

Adrien Thomas: “Cross-Border Labour Markets and the Role of Trade Unions in representing Migrant Workers’ Interests”

Beltran Roca : “In Migrant Organising: Community Unionism, Solidarity and Bricolage”
(Co-authored by Emma Martín-Díaz)

10:50 – 11:00 **General Discussion + Short Break**

11:00 – 12:20 **SESSION II:** *(SESSION CHAIR: YUE HUANG)*

Torben Dall Schmidt : Local Institutions, Union Wage Effects and Native-Foreign Wage Gaps”

Fenet Bedaso: “Immigrants and Trade Union Membership: Does Integration into Society and Workplace Play a Moderating Role?”

(Co-authored by Uwe Jirjahn & Laszlo Goerke)

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12:20 – 13:30 **General Discussion + Lunch Break**

13:30 – 14:50 **SESSION III:** *(SESSION CHAIR: ALBERTO PALERMO)*

Claudio Deiana: “Getting Off on the Wrong Foot: The Long-Term Effects of Missing a Large-Scale Amnesty for Immigrant Workers”

(Co-authored by Ludovica Giua & Roberto Nisticò)

Mirjam Bächli : “Does Labor Protection Increase Support for Immigration? Evidence from Switzerland”

(Co-authored by Teodora Tsankova)

14:50 – 15:00 **General Discussion + Short Break**

15:00 – 16:20 **SESSION IV:** *(SESSION CHAIR: FENET BEDASO)*

Christoph Deuster : “International Migration and Government Policies: Immigration vs. Emigration restrictions”

Teresa Randazzo : “Ethnic Identity and Educational Aspirations”

(Co-authored by Matloob Piracha)

16:20 – 16:30 **General Discussion**

16:30 **Farewell + Networking**

Organizational Information

Instructions for Presenters:

We scheduled 40 minutes for each paper:

- 30 minutes for your presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

The workshop will take place online via Zoom Software.

In case of unforeseen technical problems, our IT team is available during the workshop:

Email: edv@iaaeu.de

Tel.: +49 (0) 651 / 201 4757

Abstracts

Session I:

Adrien Thomas: *“Cross-Border Labour Markets and the Role of Trade Unions in representing Migrant Workers’ Interests”*

New patterns of labour migration are reshaping labour markets and raising new challenges for labour market actors, especially trade unions. This article critically discusses unionization strategies targeting migrant workers and the political and organizational dilemmas involved, taking as an example the case of Luxembourg, a founding member of the European Union with a highly internationalized labour market. Relying on qualitative research and survey results, this article sets out the strategies adopted by trade unions to unionize migrant workers, before discussing the dilemmas and tensions related to the diversification of trade union policies and organizational structures in response to labour migration. It provides valuable insights into two broader issues: the sociopolitical and organizational dynamics involved in trade unions’ inclusion of migrant workers and the potential role of trade unions in building transnational links and cohesion in border regions.

Beltran Roca, Emma Martín-Díaz: *“In Migrant Organising: Community Unionism, Solidarity and Bricolage”*

First, it will explain the framework for studying trade union policy towards migrant workers (mainly drawing on Connolly, Marino, and Martinez Lucio's recent study). Secondly, it will discuss the usefulness of the concept of community unionism, and its spatial dimension, for the study of migrants’ industrial and collective action. Thirdly, it will discuss the potential of the concepts of bricolage and diffusion for the analysis of protest in transnational contexts. Finally, the presentation will describe how the different experiences of migrant collective action and trade unionism included in the book (from Spain, Germany, Argentina, and Italy) can shed light on ongoing debates on the complex relationships between migrant workers and the trade union movement. The main argument is that the rise of new voices in labour relations demands new theoretical lenses which are sensitive to processes that occur outside the workplace.

Abstracts

Session II:

Torben Dall Schmidt: *“Local Institutions, Union Wage effects and Native–Foreign Wage Gaps”*

Local institutions in the shape of collective wage bargaining in firms are important for wage differences among labour of various origins. This paper considers local rent-sharing in Danish firms and finds that local wage bargaining reduces wage gaps between cross-border commuters of Danish, Swedish, German and Polish origins. Wage gaps are found to be between 6% and 12%, while individual union membership reduces the wage gap. Local peer effects, on the other hand, may increase wage gaps particularly for cross-border commuters of Polish origin, which can be interpreted as a form of local club behaviour in bargaining at the firm level.

Fenet Bedaso, Uwe Jirjahn, Laszlo Goerke: *“Immigrants and Trade Union Membership: Does Integration into Society and Workplace Play a Moderating Role?”*

We hypothesize that incomplete integration into the workplace and society implies that immigrants are less likely to be union members than natives. This result holds in regression controlling for industry, occupation, and a long list of personal characteristics. Incomplete integration makes the usual mechanism for overcoming the collective action problem less effective. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel, our empirical analysis shows that the immigrant-native gap in union membership indeed depends on immigrants' integration into the workplace and society. The immigrant-native unionization gap is smaller for immigrants working in firms with a works council and having social contacts with Germans. Our analysis also confirms that the gap is also decreasing in the years since arrival. Our result suggests that the negative consequences of migration for unionization can be mitigated if the host country is able to integrate immigrants into the workplace and society.

Abstracts

Session III:

Claudio Deiana, Ludovica Giua, Roberto Nisticò: *“Getting Off on the Wrong Foot: The Long-Term Effects of Missing a Large-Scale Amnesty for Immigrant Workers”*

We estimate the long-run effects of ineligibility for legalization on immigrants' formal employment and assimilation at work. Our empirical approach exploits the exogenous change in probability of obtaining legal status induced by a 2002 Italian amnesty program targeting irregular foreign workers. We show that immigrants unexposed to the amnesty have a 15% lower probability of being regularly employed a decade later than their counterparts. They also experience a deterioration in their working conditions in the long run, with increases in job immobility and segregation, and a decline in linguistic assimilation.

Mirjam Bächli, Teodora Tsankova: *“Does Labor Protection Increase Support for Immigration? Evidence from Switzerland”*

What affects native support for immigration? At a time of rising anti-immigration sentiments, this is a question raised by both academics and policy makers. We study the role of labor protection in shaping native preferences over migration policies. We look at Swiss national votes which took place from 2000 to 2014. Our results show that a higher immigrant exposure reduces pro-immigration vote shares in municipalities with a relatively low-skilled native population. The negative response is mitigated under higher levels of labor protection as measured by collective bargaining coverage. We look at labor market outcomes to understand mechanisms at play and find some suggestive evidence that collective agreements mitigate negative wage responses among low-skilled natives. Overall, the analysis suggests that labor protection affects vote outcomes by improving in addition other labor market conditions or by alleviating existing fears among the native population.

Abstracts

Session IV:

Christoph Deuster: *“International Migration and Government Policies: Immigration vs. Emigration restrictions”*

This paper studies the relationship between migration policies and migration flows. The analysis collects information on immigration and emigration policies from the World Population Policies database in order to obtain a measure on migration restrictions of 41 destination and 195 origin countries. It codes government policies on migration according to their restrictiveness and combines this information with biennial data on migration flows between 41 destination and 228 origin territories for the period 2001-2012. It then uses a gravity framework in order to determine the potential impact of immigration and emigration policies on bilateral migration flows. The paper finds that immigration restrictions have a statistically significant impact on bilateral migration flows. Emigration restrictions, however, do not seem to be of similar importance. This suggests that policies targeting immigrants rather than emigrants have a stronger impact on the shape and size of international migration flows.

Teresa Randazzo, Matloob Piracha: *“Ethnic Identity and Educational Aspirations”*

We study the role of ethnic identity on educational preferences of children of immigrants in Italy. We find that a weak Italian identity negatively affects immigrant educational careers. In particular, students in middle secondary school with a weak sense of Italian belonging show a low preference towards academically-oriented high secondary tracks which normally increase the likelihood to pursue a university degree. Moreover, the intention of immigrant children in high secondary schools to enroll at university decreases if they have a weak Italian identity. The effects are much larger for girls who show to be more sensitive to the assimilation process. Immigrant children will soon form a very important component of the adult population of Italian society and shedding light on their educational careers will help understand their performance in the Italian labour market.

Participants

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Bedaso	Fenet	IAAEU Trier & Trier University
Clemens	Marco	IAAEU Trier & Trier University
Dall Schmidt	Torben	Institut for Employment Relations and Labour (IPA), Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg
Deiana	Claudio	University of Cagliari and University of Essex
Deuster	Christoph	Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
Feld	Jonas	IAAEU Trier & Trier University
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Participants

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Sonedda	Daniela	University of Piemonte Orientale
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