

Call for Contributions for Study Group: ‘Peer exchange on Public sector employment relations’

Various longstanding trends have transformed public services and public sector employment relations in the past and continue to do so in the present, such as new public management, austerity and the impact of the Global financial and economic crisis after 2008, as well as technological changes and changes in the sociodemographic composition of societies, following migration and the demographic change. The Covid-19 pandemic has added yet another layer of global challenges that intersects with these more longstanding trends. Studying the effects these trends have on public sector employment relations – and vice versa – is crucial, since public sector employment relations are decisive for the inclusiveness of societies: In that they impact on the quality of jobs in a large part of the economy; in that they can help to establish standards (e.g. on gender equality) that potentially also spill over to the private sector; and finally, in that they shape the conditions under which public sector employees deliver public services to citizens.

At the ILERA 2021 meeting in Lund, the study group therefore wishes to take stock of current questions and issues related to the various challenges and transformations in public sector employment relations. We invite contributions from researchers and practitioners to share their ideas, experiences and findings – even very preliminary ones – with peer experts in the field from around the world. To this aim, the idea of this study group’s meeting is to have a roundtable discussion with rather short (5-10 minutes) contributions that briefly highlight important issues at stake in ongoing or future research projects, or that inform and comment on current reform projects and political debates affecting public sector employment relations. This collective exercise shall help us to get an overview on important developments and open questions on which also to base future activities of the Study Group, and to establish contacts between experts working on similar issues and thereby facilitate future collaborations.

The roundtable is to take place from 13:30 to 15:30h on the first day of the conference (21th of June). If you are interested to participate, please send us a title for your contribution, along with 2-3 sentences describing the subject you’d like to talk about.

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