

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Ratio Colloquium for Young Social Scientists The Role of Market in Industrial Relations and Labour Studies Stockholm, August 23-25, 2018

Highlights:

- Cross-disciplinary social sciences colloquium focused on industrial relations, labour markets, and market processes
- Collaborative and stimulating atmosphere for young scholars to develop papers
- Keynotes by Michael Burda (Humboldt University, Berlin) and Bryan Caplan (George Mason University)
- Accommodation and travel costs are covered for participants with accepted full papers.

The Ratio Institute invites junior scholars in economics, political science, law, public policy, economic history, sociology, etc. to submit proposals for a cross disciplinary research colloquium in Stockholm, Sweden. The aim of the Colloquium is to bring together researchers with a free market orientation working in the field of industrial relations. In addition to paper sessions there will be two keynote lectures.

The field of industrial relations (IR) and labor economics has for a long time been dominated by interventionist and market skeptical ideas. It emerged as a field of research in Great Britain and the USA about one hundred years ago. The key figures in the development, such as Sidney and Beatrice Webb, in Great Britain, as well as John R. Commons and John T. Dunlop in the USA, were openly socialist, Progressive, or New Deal-ist (Elvander 2002, Kaufman 1993, 2004).

In contrast to most other markets, in labor markets and industrial relations, phenomenon such as corporatist arrangements, cartels, collective bargaining, price regulations (minimum wages), strikes, lockouts etc. have been considered as necessary and beneficial. Special regulations and interventions that restrict the ordinary market mechanisms have been seen as normal and defensible.

Arguably the field of IR today is more pluralistic, but the left-oriented political thinking clearly dominates (see discussion between Langbert 2016 and Kaufman 2016 in *Econ Journal Watch*). Moreover, deviations – empirical or intellectual– from the anti-free-market paradigm is still often seen as neo-liberal conspiracies and the like (e.g. Aguiar & Herod 2006, Cradden 2014, Heery 2015, Cradden 2017).

This colloquium aims to attract papers with the opposite orientation. There is a need to investigate, both empirically and analytically, labour market and industrial relations just as we study any other market. Could it be, for example, that it is the special regulations and interventions in these markets that cause many of the problems we see with unemployment, especially among the youth, skills shortage, social divisions, slow growth etc?

The aim is thus to advance research about industrial relations and labor markets from a free-market perspective. We encourage papers dealing with but not limited to the following issues:

- Effects of deregulation of labour markets
- Decentralization of collective bargaining
- Competitiveness and wage formation
- Rights of individuals versus rights of industrial action
- Minimum wages by law or by collective bargaining
- Digital disruption and the future of jobs
- Mismatch on labour markets
- Insiders and outsiders on labour markets
- The European Social Pillar
- Labour market reform
- Comparative labour market models
- Occupational licensing
- Other neglected topics

We expect submitted proposals (max 5 pages) to be work in progress: they should develop into complete papers by *July 30* (see dates below), but still be unpublished. We expect the submitted proposals to be theoretical or empirical, rigorous, and relevant to public policy. We will select proposals after a review process based on relevance for the Colloquium theme and potential for stimulating discussion. About 20 papers will be accepted, following the review of submitted proposals.

Senior PhD students, postdocs, and assistant professors are eligible for participation. Discussants will be appointed to each accepted paper; all participants are expected to read and comment on papers assigned to them. The colloquium and hotel accommodation will be free of charge for participants. We will also reimburse reasonable budget travel expenses for all participants provided that a first-draft is completed when due.

The Ratio Colloquium for Young Social Scientists is renowned for offering participants the opportunity to interact in depth, exchange constructive comments, and share insights in a stimulating intellectual environment.

Important dates and deadlines

April 15	Deadline for submission of proposals
May 15	Applicants will be notified of whether they have been accepted
June 15	Last date for registration
July 30	Deadline for submission of full papers

Applications should include the following

- The research proposal (see details below)
- A one page summary of your *research interests*
- An up-to-date CV

Guidelines

- Proposals should not exceed a total of 5 pages and 3000 words, including charts, graphs, diagrams, and references.
- Abstract of 125 words.
- Only electronic submissions to karl.hatt@ratio.se will be accepted.
- Maximum of one (1) proposal, either as an author or a co-author, may be submitted.

Venue

The Colloquium will meet at Ratio Institute, Sveavägen 59 in central Stockholm, Sweden.

Conveners

Nils Karlson, Associate professor, Ratio ([nils.karlson@ratio.se](mailto:nilskarlson@ratio.se))

Lotta Stern, Associate Professor, Stockholm University and Ratio (charlotta.stern@ratio.se)

Submission and administrative inquiries: Karl Hatt, Ratio (karl.hatt@ratio.se)

Keynote speakers

Michael C. Burda is Professor of Economics, at the School of Business and Economics, in Humboldt University, Berlin. Professor Burda does research in macroeconomics and the economics of labor markets. With Charles Wyplosz (Geneva), he is the author of the textbook *Macroeconomics: A European Text* (Oxford University Press, seventh edition 2017 (and has been published in thirteen languages)). He has written on the economic origins and impacts of labor market institutions, economic integration, employment and wages, and globalization, as well as the transformation of Eastern and Central Europe and the former German Democratic Republic. Burda received his Ph.D in 1987 from Harvard University.

Bryan Caplan is Professor of Economics at George Mason University and blogger for EconLog. He is the author of *The Myth of the Rational Voter*, named "the best political book of the year" by the *New York Times*, *Selfish Reasons to Have More Kids*, and *The Case Against Education*. He has been published in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *American Economic Review*, *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Intelligence*, and appeared on ABC, Fox News, MSNBC, and C-SPAN.

Organizer

The *Ratio Institute* (www.ratio.se/english) is an independent multidisciplinary research institute based in Stockholm, Sweden. Researchers have a background in academic disciplines such as Business History, Economics, Economic Geography, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Management, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology.