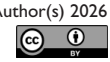
Check for updates

EID

Editorial

Economic and Industrial Democracy
2026, Vol. 47(3) 845–846
© The Author(s) 2026



Article reuse guidelines:
sagepub.com/journals-permissions
DOI: 10.1177/0143831X261457999
journals.sagepub.com/home/eid

Lars Magnusson[1] and Jan Ottosson[1]

This issue of *Economic and Industrial Democracy* contains two parts. The first part relates to the Utopia special section, with guest editors Paula Mulinari, Malmö University, Sweden, and Andrea Iossa, Kristianstad University, Sweden. The articles in the second part are described below.

The first article, 'Co-operative work and developmental freedom: A study of four British worker co-operatives', by Robin Jervis, University of Brighton, UK, examines whether worker co-operatives in the UK enhance freedom in working life. The author finds that co-operatives can be effective even under capitalism to gain control over working life issues.

The second article, 'Humanistic governance in worker cooperatives: Unlocking collective capacities', by Cian McMahon, University of Dundee School of Business, Dundee, UK, and Sonja Novkovic, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, also discusses worker cooperatives. The authors consider the role of transferring tacit knowledge, by examining e.g. mentoring and skill sharing, alongside the important role of women in the cases studied.

The article 'Transformative or reproductive labour actions in online food delivery services? Reworking and resilience practices in the global North and global South', by Padmini Sharma, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, highlights, among other factors, the various resilience strategies in terms of labour actions in the online food delivery services. The author finds differences between India and Italy in terms of various labour actions and the effects these have for the workers in different timespans. Some industrial actions might provoke more control from the employer.

Tuomo Alasoini, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland, discusses hybrid work in the article 'Reproducing clan mechanisms of control in hybrid work'. The author examines 'the control deficit' in hybrid work organisations. Based on Finnish software companies, the author finds that there are consequences of remote work affecting the clan mechanisms.

[1]Department of Economic History, Uppsala University, Sweden

Corresponding authors:
Lars Magnusson, Department of Economic History, Uppsala University, Uppsala, 751 20, Sweden.
Email: lars.magnusson@ekhist.uu.se
Jan Ottosson, Department of Economic History, Uppsala University, Uppsala, 751 20, Sweden.
Email: jan.ottosson@ekhist.uu.se

The article 'Trade unions and the digitalisation of admin work in public services: An international comparative analysis of the hospital sector', by Caroline Lloyd, Cardiff University, UK, and Jonathan Payne, De Montfort University, UK, investigates the roles of the union in the digitalisation of the public sector (hospitals) in Norway and the UK. The authors' findings highlight the role of governance, as well as politics. Further, the role of top-down digitalisation and the role of unions are discussed.

Marcello Pedaci, Università di Teramo, Italy, and Marco Betti, Università di Teramo, Italy, look at the role of unions in the Italian food industry in their article 'The difficult practice of just transition: Trade unions' strategy and on-the-ground action in the Italian food industry'. The authors illuminate that even in good industrial relations institutions, intense competition can make the unions less able to fight worsening job conditions.

The article 'When work loses its meaning: Voice or exit? A longitudinal analysis with the 2013–2016 French Working Conditions surveys', by Thomas Coutrot, IRES (Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales), Paris, France, and Coralie Perez, Université de Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne, France, discusses a new angle of exit and voice. The authors investigate which options are available for the workforce facing meaningless work. They suggest that meaningless work favours exit, i.e. quitting the job. Voice through unionisation is chosen less often, but loyalty is the most common.

The next article, 'Stressed or happy – or both? Nuancing gig workers' experiences with platform work', by Linda Weidenstedt, The Ratio Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, and Stockholm University, Sweden, Eva-Lisa Palmtag, Stockholm University, Sweden, Birgit Leick, University of South-Eastern Norway, Norway, and Mark Cropley, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK, highlights stress and job satisfaction. The authors claim that these two phenomena can be parallel among gig workers. According to the authors, there is a difference between primary and secondary incomes, related to stress and satisfaction.

Bengt Larsson, Linnaeus University, Sweden, and University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Bertil Rolandsson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Anna Ilsøe, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Trine Pernille Larsen, the University of Warwick, UK, Alex Lehr, Radboud University, the Netherlands, and Jaan Masso, University of Tartu, Estonia, compare four countries and the development of employment relations in the FinTech sector in their article 'Uncharted territories: Exploring employment relations in the FinTech (sub)sector in Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands and Sweden'. The authors find that the various types of organised employment relations affecting collective agreements and collective organisation vary from fragmented industrial relations models to more stable industrial relations, thus showing the role of existing institutional settings, but differences in actor strategies.

In the final article in this issue, 'Trade unions and the demographic challenge: Their role in pension system and work life reforms', by Roland Kadefors, Rebecka Arman and Ewa Wikström, all at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, the role of trade unions is explored in relation to the pension system. The authors point to clear differences between Norway, Sweden and Germany. Tripartite alliances made it possible for the Norwegian unions to be involved in the process. However, the German and Swedish experiences show that the unions were excluded, but with different outcomes in terms of tripartite and bipartite alliances.