

International Working Party on Labour Market Segmentation
34th Annual Conference
Dublin 12-14 September 2013

Preliminary conference announcement and call for papers

Austerity without end? European employment in the crisis

Once upon a time Ireland was held up a model for European growth. Then came the crisis and suddenly Ireland was held to exemplify all the follies that had caused it. Now in spring 2013 Ireland is being presented as exemplifying a route out of the crisis. Yet even the most optimistic forecast years of austerity ahead.

This is the background for the 34th annual conference of the International Working Party on Labour Market Segmentation. Traditionally IWPLMS conferences have focused on the shaping of employment by institutions such as the systems of social welfare, education and industrial relations. These concerns remain crucial for understanding employment in the epoch of austerity. Do long-established forms of division and *segmentation* continue? Are they supplemented or replaced by new divisions? Understanding the labour market in the crisis however also means looking at the strategies of specific actors – firms, unions and individuals; it involves the lived experience of truncated careers, precarious employment and long term unemployment – and even the occasional success. It also involves new themes. More so than ever before, employment is shaped by European and even global institutions; global firms and individual migrants are mobile across national boundaries; position in the labour market is also shaped not just by macro-level economic policy but by the financialisation of everyday life.

Against this background the conference seeks papers on such topics as:

Austerity and the labour market –

Low wage work, unemployment, precarious employment

Social policy and employment in the crisis

The national welfare states –resilience, transformation or disintegration? What is the role of education and training in the crisis? Important here would be international comparisons especially within the Eurozone crisis countries (e.g. Ireland in contrast to Greece).

Not just the 1930s (or even the 1970s)

Distinctive features of the current crisis in crisis countries: household debt and household assets) new household and individual strategies (extended adolescence, mobility and migration as solutions); the uneven crisis and jobs growth elsewhere in Europe

Employment in a new growth model

Scenarios for sustainable employment: revaluing ordinary work, ecological transformation and employment, beyond the rhetoric of the knowledge society

Further details and conference website will open shortly; abstract submission by 1 April.