



Industrial Relations Unit (IRRU)

Seminar Series – Autumn 2020

Speaker:

**Rose Batt, Alice Hanson Cook Professor of Women and Work at the ILR
School, Cornell University**

Title:

**Sustainable Prosperity for All:
Why Labor Needs a National Investment Authority
(*Rosemary Batt and Saule Omarova, Cornell University*)**

Date:

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Venue:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time:

14:00 – 15:30 (GMT)

Abstract:

In this paper, we argue that US labor needs a National Investment Authority – a structure that resembles the New Deal’s Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but goes beyond it in ways that respond to the current political and economic crisis facing the US. We argue that labor policy reform alone -- without fundamental financial reform -- will not change the power dynamics between labor and capital. Labor will remain in a defensive and reactive posture vis a vis corporate power and finance capital. The NIA would be a permanent institutional structure to coordinate the financing and implementation of crisis responses – as well as long-term strategies to restructure the economy for a sustainable future. The mandate would be twofold: To organize and mobilize the nation’s economic resources in response to systemic crises; and to coordinate and finance ongoing public and private investment in critical public infrastructure and socially inclusive and sustainable economic growth. While we focus on the US, we believe that other countries would also benefit from a similar institutional formation.

Registration:

Please email irruoffice@wbs.ac.uk to express your interest, if you are not on the IRRU mailing list and have not received an email to register for the seminar.