



Industrial Relations Unit (IRRU)

Seminar Series – Autumn 2020

Speakers:

Thomas Kochan (MIT Sloan School of Management, Co-Director MIT Sloan Institute for Work and Employment Research)

Title:

Worker Voice, Representation, and Implications for Public Policies

Date:

Wednesday 21 October 2020

Venue:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time:

14:00 – 15:30

Abstract:

There is growing evidence that shaping work of the future to achieve a more broadly shared prosperity will require rebuilding worker voice and representation, rebalancing power in employment relations, and making fundamental changes in American labor and employment policies. The enormous impacts that the COVID-19 virus and the rising protests against racism are having on work and employment increase the urgency to rethink policies and institutions supporting worker voice at all levels of the economy. Industry and workers/labor representatives are in the throes of the biggest changes in workplace practices, workforce redeployments, and job losses since the Great Depression. The devastating effects of the COVID-19 crisis laid bare the weaknesses in both the safety net governing work and in the policies governing worker voice. Together with the broad-based calls to address long-standing racial disparities, these two developments demonstrate that American workers need a stronger voice in determining when and under what conditions it is safe to work through the duration of the health crisis and in deciding what changes in workplace practices and policies will make their workplaces and the overall economy more inclusive, resilient, safe, productive, and equitable in the future. Labor, industry, and government leaders need to work together at national, state, and local levels of the economy to help determine and facilitate the massive changes taking place that will shape work of the future.

Registration:

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

