Who speaks for labour market outsiders?

Round-table on the representation of the losers of the crisis in Europe

Monday, 18th April 2016, 5:00-6:30pm

1.015

Warwick Business School, University of Warwick

The European labour market is increasingly portrayed as divided between insiders and outsiders. In the words of the European Central Bank’s President, Mario Draghi (11th March 2016): ‘In many countries the labour market is set up to protect older “insiders” – people with permanent, high-paid contracts and shielded by strong labour laws. The side-effect is that young people are stuck with lower-paid, temporary contracts and get fired first in crisis times.’ Indeed, workers on atypical contracts (agency workers, zero-hour contracts etc) have suffered disproportionately from the recent economic crisis. Social scientists such as Guy Standing even call this group a new class, the ‘Precariat’, distinct from the core ‘Salariat’.

The round table will discuss the socio-political causes and implications of this emerging divide. Are ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’ distinct groups with distinct interests? Is the weak position of ‘outsiders’ related to their under-representation in politics and in trade unions? Are ‘outsiders’ reacting with separate forms of mobilisation, organisation and representation?

The round table will bring together the participants in a current British Academy-funded project on ‘The representation of the losers of the crisis’ and two University of Warwick experts on youth employment and on political representation, and aims at opening a broad debate on a process that is very much in flux.

Participants: Guglielmo Meardi, Duncan Adam (IRRU, Warwick Business School), Melanie Simms (University of Leicester), Bianca Beccalli (University of Milan), Enrico Pugliese (CNR Rome), Stefan Kerber-Clasen (Erlangen-Nurnberg University)

Discussants: Kate Purcell (Institute for Employment Research), Michael Saward (PaIS)

Wine and refreshments to follow

To book a place, please contact Val Jephcott: crew@warwick.ac.uk