Call for Papers

Workplace Employment Relations Survey 2004

British Journal of Industrial Relations

The British Journal of Industrial Relations is re-issuing its open invitation to submit papers analysing the Workplace Employment Relations Survey 2004 (WERS 2004). The papers will be subject to the normal refereeing procedure. A selection of papers will be published in a special edition of the journal in September 2007. Additional papers may also appear if they pass the reviewing process.

WERS 2004 is the fifth in the internationally renowned series, providing a nationally representative account of the state of employment relations and working life inside British workplaces. Previous surveys in the series were conducted in 1980, 1984, 1990 and 1998. In common with other surveys in the series, WERS 2004 is jointly sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Policy Studies Institute (PSI).

The editors do not wish to be prescriptive about the substantive focus of contributions. The journal wishes to encourage analytical papers that go beyond what is likely to be included in the first findings and sourcebook produced by the sponsors. We encourage contributors to consider using one or more of all the survey instruments contained in the 2004 survey, namely the management, employee, worker representative and financial performance questionnaires. We also hope to receive contributions focusing on change, using the 1998-2004 panel survey and repeat cross-section data on employees and managers.

The 2004 survey, while providing continuity with the 1998 survey, contains a number of innovative features that contributors may wish to bear in mind:
Size threshold for inclusion in the survey: the size threshold for workplace inclusion in the survey has been lowered from 10 employees in 1998 to 5 employees in 2004.

Workplace performance questionnaire: there is a new, fairly extensive survey instrument relating to workplace costs and performance.

Interviews with non-union worker representatives: in addition to interviews with union worker representatives, the survey conducts interviews with non-union worker representatives.

More extensive employee questionnaire: the employee questionnaire includes many more items than previously, including items relating to job-related well-being, job satisfaction and skills.

New batteries of questions in the management questionnaire: these include questions relating to issues such as partnership, corporate governance and work-life balance.

Full information about the survey, together with how to obtain the data, is available at http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/emar/wers5.htm

Papers should be submitted for consideration by the editors by Friday September 29th 2006 (note that this replaces the earlier date in our previous call for papers). Please send full versions of papers to Sylvia Roesch, Managing Editor: S.Roesch@lse.ac.uk in the usual way. If you would like to discuss a possible submission please contact one of the joint editors for the special edition:

Alex Bryson a.bryson@psi.org.uk
Francis Green g.f.green@kent.ac.uk
Keith Whitfield Whitfield@cf.ac.uk.

ERU Conference

In order to promote discussion of findings from the new WERS, BJIR is joining with the Employment Research Unit of Cardiff Business School to organise a WERS conference. This will take place in Cardiff in the first week of September 2006. It is hoped that papers submitted to the journal will also be presented at the Cardiff WERS conference, though this is not a requirement of submission to the journal. If you would like more information on the Cardiff conference, please contact Keith Whitfield: Whitfield@cf.ac.uk or David Nash NashD@cf.ac.uk.