



EURECO

UNIVERSITY OF
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**International conference on the history of the
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC, 1973-2013):**

Past and present of trade unions and European integration

22nd and 23th October 2015

Social Sciences Faculty

University of Copenhagen

Organizers:

Sigfrido Ramírez Pérez, Post Doc, the Saxo-Institute (Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen)

Jens Arnholtz, Assistant Professor, Employment Relations Research Centre (FAOS -Employment Relations Research Centre- Faculty of Social Sciences)

Eva Hartmann, Assistant Professor, Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School

Theme and purpose: This conference aims to bring to the University of Copenhagen the researchers of the consortium created by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) for the elaboration of a research project about the history of the European Trade Union Confederation. On the occasion of its 40th Anniversary the ETUI and the ETUC provided to its members full access to key actors and archival resources for studying the ETUC and its members. The project has been structured in two parts. One volume (published at the end of 2013) about the ETUC as European confederation was elaborated with the contribution of the scientific coordinator of the project Pierre Tilly (UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve). The second volume (to be published by the end of 2015) deals with the relationship between the ETUC and national trade unions. The conference aims to be the final conference of this second volume and will bring together historians, sociologists and political scientists who have participated in this work.

The central focus of these chapters deals with the specific relationships of national trade unions with the process of European integration and the role that the ETUC have played in this concern. In general the various ETUC members hold different conceptions about how European integration should be evolving. Typically there had been two extreme tendencies. One position represented by those who believe that the process of European integration should take a federalist position in which the ETUC would play the role of creating a European trade union movement and a transnational social and industrial relations dimension. Another for whom the process of European integration could not impinge in the autonomy of national actors to define their own national social models and therefore the ETUC would attempt to influence various EU policies to preserve this plurality without engaging into a convergence towards a common social European model.

This conference in the University of Copenhagen aims to give an opportunity to the participants to expose the result of their research and receive the comments of those researchers in Danish universities interested in debating about the way national trade unions have been related to the process of European integration in the last forty years since its conception. It also intends to engage a larger public debate beyond specialists of industrial relations and European integration about which are the current perspectives for European trade unions in the current context of European integration. For this reason the conference will be structured in three panels where national chapters will be discussed and one plenary dedicated to current perspectives in which we would invite to participate European researchers and trade unionists in debate with relevant Danish actors involved in the European policy debate.

In general we aim that this conference would also provide a further impetus for possibly creating a network of scholars who will be ready to discuss of these strategic options and choices of national trade unions by preserving the history and memory of key actors of this debate through a public history project. Such a meeting could also serve to discuss the possibility of creating an additional research project about the history of European trade unions by sectors (Metallurgy, construction, public sector, etc), which had not been discussed in this project in a monographic way. For such an aim we will count as key-note speaker with Carola Fyschbach-Pyttel, former secretary general of the European Public Service Union (EPSU) who will share with the public her experience of most than 25 years at the head of this relevant European trade union federation.

List of speakers

Speakers from Danish Universities:

- Ben Rosamond, Professor, Center for European Politics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Copenhagen.
- Christian Lyhne Ibsen, Assistant Professor, FAOS, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen.
- Eva Hartmann, Assistant Professor, Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School.
- Janine Leschke, Associate Professor, Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School
- Jens Arnholtz, Assistant Professor, Employment Relations Research Centre (FAOS), Sociology, University of Copenhagen

- Laura Horn, Associate Professor, Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University
- Morten Heiberg, Professor, ENGEROM, University of Copenhagen
- Sigfrido Ramírez Pérez, Post Doc, the Saxo-Institute (Saxo Institute), University of Copenhagen
- Søren Kaj Andersen, Associate Professor, Director of FAOS, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen

Invited guests:

- Adam Mrozowicki, Assistant professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wroclaw.
- Andrew Waterman, Phd Researcher, University of Portsmouth
- Bente Sorgenfrey, Chairman, FTF. Confederation of Professionals, Denmark
- Carola Fischbach-Pyttel, former Secretary General of the European Public Service Union-EPSU
- Claude Roccati, Postdoc Researcher, University of Le Havre
- Einar Edelberg, former head of the Labour Law Division in the Danish Ministry of Employment
- Jon Erik Dølvik, Research Director at the FAFO Institute, Oslo
- Juergen Mittag, Managing director of the Foundation Library of the Ruhr, Bochum.
- Pierre Tilly, Professor, Director of the Center for European History (CEHEC), UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve
- Quentin Jouan, Phd researcher, Department of History, CEHEC/UCL Louvain-la-Neuve
- Richard Hyman, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, London.

Place: Faculty of Social Sciences, Øster Farimagsgade 5, University of Copenhagen.

THURSDAY 22nd October

Venue: Social Science Faculty, Room-CSS 35.3.13

13:00 Arrival and registrations: Light lunch-sandwiches.

14.00: Welcome opening by the organisers.

14.10 Pierre Tilly / UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve (co-editor of the book).

“The 40th year of the ETUC (1973-2013): reflections and key questions for the research project”.

14:30 Key-note speech: Carola Fischbach-Pyttel (former Secretary General of the European Public Service Union): Writing the history of the European Public Service Union (EPSU).

15:00 Discussion: Eva Hartmann

15:25 Coffee Break

Session 1: Trade Unions from Northern Europe

- 15:45 German Trade Unions, Jürgen Mittag
- 16:05 Danish and Norwegian Trade Unions, Jon Erik Dølvik
- 16:25 Discussants: Søren Kaj Andersen and Christian Lyhne Ibsen

Session 2: Southern European Trade Unions

- 16:50 Italian Trade Unions, Andrea Ciampani
- 17:10 Spanish and Portuguese Trade Unions, Sigfrido Ramirez Perez
- 17:30 French Trade Unions, Claude Roccati
- 17:50 Discussant: Morten Heiberg and Andrew Waterman.
- 18:15 End of the Thursday Session
- 19:30 Dinner Restaurant

Friday 23rd October

Venue: Social Science Faculty, Room-CSS 7.0.06

Session 3: Old and New Members of the ETUC

- 09:30: Polish Trade Unions, Adam Mrozowicki.
- 09:50 British Trade Unions, Richard Hyman.
- 10:10 Benelux Trade Unions, Quentin Jouan.
- 10:30 Discussants: Laura Horn and Janine Leschke.
- 10:50 General Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:15 General debate on the whole project and future perspectives for research.
- 12:15 Lunch Break

Venue: Social Science Faculty, Room-CSS 25.01.53

14:00 Public debate on the present and future of the trade unions in the current context of European integration. Moderator: Jens Arnholtz.

 Round-Table: Richard Hyman, Ben Rosamond, Bente Sorgenfrey, Einar Edelberg.

16.30 Closure of the conference by the organisers

Contacts and registration: Sigfrido M. Ramírez Pérez: mxs332@hum.ku.dk