

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

in the 21st century



CB 2023

Academy of Sciences of Lisbon
Rua da Academia das Ciências 19,
1200-168 Lisbon / PORTUGAL

JUNE 26-27 / 2023

Organizers

David Card (University of California Berkeley, USA)

Ana Rute Cardoso (University of Lisbon, Institute of Social Sciences, Portugal)

What is the role of collective bargaining in 21st century labor markets? While some scholars question the place of unions in a world shaped by new technologies and global supply chains, others defend their mission to promote equality and social justice. The topic is re-emerging as a lively research area, driven by the expanding availability of data covering workers and firms, innovative research methodologies, and the interests of policy makers. This conference will bring together state-of-the-art research on leading issues in collective bargaining.

The questions to be addressed include longstanding paradoxes and newly emerging problems: Is the low membership in unions a challenge to institutions that seek to extend collective bargaining coverage to all or nearly all workers? Do today's unions adequately represent the goals and needs of the workers they bargain for? Would alternative institutions serve workers better? How can a wage setting system accommodate macro shocks, such as inflation or recessions, as well as sector- and firm-specific shocks? To what extent is collective bargaining eroded or enhanced by national minimum wages? How much does collective bargaining contribute to reduce social inequalities? Are the current collective bargaining institutions well-suited to the needs of the traditionally marginalized groups, including women and migrants, or to highly-skilled professionals and employers in the information and technology sectors?

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Monday morning, June 26 / Salão Nobre

8:40 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening session

David Card (University of California Berkeley, USA)

José Luís Cardoso (President of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, Portugal)

Pedro Teixeira (Secretary of State of Higher Education, Portugal)

9:30 – 10:30 "The language of contract: Promises and power in collective bargaining agreements"

Suresh Naidu (Columbia University, USA)

Discussant: Nicole Fortin (University of British Columbia, Canada)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee-break

11:00 – 12:00 "The career effects of union membership"

Kjell Salvanes (Norwegian School of Economics, Norway)

Discussant: Sabien Dobbelaere (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

12:00 – 13:00 "Staggered contracts and unemployment during recessions"

Effrosyni Adamopoulou (University of Mannheim, Germany)

Discussant: Laura Hospido (Bank of Spain, Spain)

13:00 – 14:30 Free time for lunch

Monday afternoon, June 26 / Salão Nobre

14:30 – 15:30 "Collective bargaining for women: How unions can create female-friendly jobs"

Lorenzo Lagos (Brown University, USA)

Discussant: Laura Giuliano (University of California Santa Cruz, USA)

15:30 – 16:30 "How collective bargaining shapes poverty: New evidence for developed countries"

François Rycx (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

Discussant: Pedro Martins (Nova School of Business and Economics, Portugal)

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee-break

17:00 – 18:00 Keynote address

"Union wage effects: new evidence on an old question"

Thomas Lemieux (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Introduction by: David Card (University of California Berkeley, USA)

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Tuesday morning, June 27 / Sala das Sessões

9:10 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:30 "The effect of unions on workers and firms: Evidence from Germany"

Alice Kuegler (Central European University, Austria)

Discussant: Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research, Norway)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee-break

11:00 – 12:00 "Firms' margins of adjustment to wage growth: The case of Italian collective bargaining"

Bernardo Fanfani (University of Turin, Italy)

Discussant: Andrea Weber (Central European University, Austria)

12:00 – 13:00 "Wage cyclicity and collective bargaining"

Pedro Portugal (Bank of Portugal, Portugal)

Discussant: Ana Rute Cardoso (University of Lisbon, ICS, Portugal)

13:00 – 14:30 Free time for lunch

Tuesday afternoon, June 27 / Sala das Sessões

14:30 – 15:30 "Collective bargaining, worker compensation and firm performance"

Manudeep Bhuller (University of Oslo, Norway)

Discussant: Alex Bryson (University College London, UK)

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee-break

16:00 – 17:30 Round table discussion "Collective bargaining into the future"

Moderator: David Card (University of California Berkeley, USA)

Tito Boeri (Bocconi University, Italy)

Reinhard Naumann (ISCTE, University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal)

Anna Stansbury (MIT, USA)

Jelle Visser (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

17:30 – 17:45 Closing session

Local organizers

Pedro Luís Silva (University of Porto, CIPES and FEP)

Raquel Rego (University of Lisbon, Institute of Social Sciences)

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