

## **Describing and explaining shifts in labour relations using a micro-macro approach**

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Work and labour relations are changing rapidly and on a global scale. More and more people move away from permanent employment towards flexible contracts or freelance work. These shifts in labour relations provoke fierce debates about the advantages and disadvantages, but they are hardly a unique phenomenon of this era. Since 2007, experts from all over the world have worked together in the 'Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations' to collect data on labour relations in various parts of the world between 1500 and 2000 and categorize them using a taxonomy that was specially developed by the collaboratory.

In this paper we provide solutions for a second phase of the project that has begun in 2013 and focuses specifically on explaining the shifts in labour relations. More specifically, we propose a methodology to convert digitized 19th and 20th century census data into the taxonomy of labour relations. By doing so we contribute to the data coverage for the 19th and 20th century.

Secondly, we propose a method to link these country-level macro data on labour relations to individual (micro) data. By doing so, we are able to study to what extent shifts in labour relations at the individual level help explain shifts in labour relations at an aggregated level. This is important since it may reveal how shifts in labour relations initiate. For example, whether the shifts in labour relations are initiated by particular social groups or start in a specific geographical region.