

WHAT'S THE POINT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS?

IN DEFENCE OF CRITICAL
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Edited by Ralph Darlington

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Published
July 2009

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What's the point of Industrial Relations?

Industrial relations has been a subject of scholarly analysis (and also public policy debate) since the end of the nineteenth century, when the Webbs published their classic studies of the regulation of employment in Britain. But some critics argue that academic industrial relations is now outdated; either the problems of the 'human factor' in work have all been solved, or they are better addressed by new approaches such as 'human resource management' or organisational behaviour. The British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) strongly disagrees and in this book a number of leading industrial relations academics and practitioners present the intellectual, moral and also policy arguments for our distinctive approach to work and employment, and the reasons why IR research and teaching are indeed more important than ever in the twenty-first century.

Individual Chapters by:

Ralph Darlington; Alex Callinicos; Roger Kline; Richard Hyman; Linda Dickens; Roger Seifert; Martin Upchurch; Miguel Martinez-Lucio; Bill Cooke; Tony Elger; Tom Wilson; Gill Dix, John Purcell and Susan Clews; plus BUIRA statement.