



Worker Cooperatives: A New Mode of Production?

As part of a series of seminars looking at the future of public services, the Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU) and the Department of International Business & Economics are organising a seminar entitled “Worker Cooperatives: A New Mode of Production” from 13.00 – 17.00 on Wednesday 15th June 2016 in Queen Anne Building QA080, University of Greenwich, Park Row, Greenwich, London SE10 9LS.

This seminar will examine the development of Worker Cooperatives historically, including their formation, models, management and performance. Drawing evidence from Spain, Italy, France, UK, New Zealand, Argentina, USA and Cuba the seminar will examine the extent to which this form of economic organising could be a viable and sustainable addition to established individual investor owned firms or public enterprises. It will aim to explain why there has been an increase in the number, geographic and sectoral distribution of worker cooperatives and what the implications are for their role in societies which are searching for new forms of economic organisation and enterprise. What implications might the resilience and current growth of Workers Cooperatives have for economic theories, research, teaching and policy advice?

The seminar will begin with a paper by Dr. Adotey Bing-Pappoe (University of Greenwich) on “Worker Cooperatives: A New Mode of Production?” Four discussants will provide responses to the paper as well as contributing elements of their own research. There will be opportunities for discussion after each contribution with a wider ranging discussion from 16.00pm. The workshop is aimed at anyone interested in the future of alternative forms of economic organisation. Students, NGOs, trade unions and civil society organisations will be especially welcome.

Programme

Venue: University of Greenwich, Queen Anne Building, QA080

Time: 13:00-17:00, Wednesday 15 June 2016

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.10 Introduction and Welcome

14:10-14:40 Dr Adotey Bing-Pappoe, University of Greenwich: “Worker Cooperatives: A New Mode of Production?”

14.40 – 16.00 Response to paper

Discussants:

Dr Cilla Ross, Cooperative College;

Dr Silvia Sacchetti, Open University Business School;

Dr Francesca Gagliardi and Dr David Gindis, Hertfordshire Business School.

16:00-17:00 Discussion

E-Users Network Objectives (Co-funded by Jean Monnet Networks, European Commission)

The EUsers network encourages the diffusion of innovative teaching approaches, applied research and policy debate on services of general interest (SGI) in the EU from a citizens' perspective.

Key questions:

How should governments define the missions, performance criteria and governance mechanisms of public enterprises providing SGI?

How should they regulate private and mixed economy enterprises?

Partners: University of Milan (Lead partner), Åbo Akademi University School of Business and Economics (Finland), WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Austria), Université de Rouen (France), University of Leipzig (Germany); University of Greenwich