In this course, we explore comparative labor relations systems across Europe. We focus on changes to collective bargaining, evolving employer preferences and shifts in employment. We will analyze how labor regulation and negotiation relates to social policy, gender relations, inequality, poverty and immigration.

Topics that we will study during the course of the semester include:
- Comparative Industrial Relations Regimes
- Labor Regulation in Great Britain
- Labor Regulation in Germany
- Labor Regulation in Italy
- Labor Regulation in Sweden
- Rise of flexible employment contracts (debates about flexi-security)
- Gender Equality and “Mainstreaming”
- Intersection between labor policy and social policy
- Immigration and labor regulation
- Changing relationship between political parties and labor organizations
- Youth Unemployment

The course will be run as a seminar, which is a form of academic instruction that prioritizes in-depth discussion and active, cooperative learning.

Professor Bio

Professor Oliver received her Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University. Oliver’s research is in the field of Comparative Political Economy. Her work focuses on issues of inequality related to labor politics, social policy and gender. Oliver’s recent book project investigates how structures of aggregation impact distributional contestation and the sustainability of egalitarian bargaining institutions, with particular attention to the cases of Italy and Sweden.