

management revue

Socio-Economics Studies

Call for Papers

Employee Voice and the Digitalisation of Work

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Seminar at the IUC Dubrovnik (April 20-24, 2020) & Special Issue

Over the past four decades, scholars from employment relations, human resource management, organisational behaviour and labour economics have published a vast body of literature concerning employee voice (Wilkinson & Fay, 2011). Employee voice is thereby understood as the opportunity to participate in organisational decision-making and to have a say to influence the own work and the interests of managers and owners (Barry & Wilkinson, 2016) or – in the case of employee silence – to withhold these views and concerns (Morrison & Milliken, 2003). Employee voice and silence have been linked to organisational performance and the development of competitive advantage (Barry & Wilkinson, 2016) and are a key ingredient for the positive relationship between strategic human resource management and organisational performance (Wood & Wall, 2007) which also implies a link between employee voice and innovation. Employees with the opportunity to communicate individual ideas to management and to participate in decision-making give them the possibility to express ‘creative ideas and new perspectives, increasing the likelihood of innovation’ (Grant, 2013, p. 1703; Zhou & George, 2001).

Recently, scholars are paying more attention to current topics and relate them to employee voice. One stream of research is addressing the advancing technologies and consider the digital revolution and its impact on employee voice. There is no doubt that digital technology is fundamentally changing the way we do business (Mennie, 2015) and in consequence forms, tools and channels ‘voice’. The few studies on employee voice and digitalisation are mainly dealing with social media at work and its opportunities for management to get in dialog with employees. Holland, Cooper, and Hecker (2019), for instance, discuss conceptually issues and opportunities social media provides in the development of employee voice. In a similar vein, Barnes, Balnave, Thornthwaite, and Manning (2019) show how a union’s use of social media might facilitate greater member participation and engagement. However, more empirical evidence and conceptual considerations are needed to better understand and explain digitalisation and employee voice (or: ‘e-voice’).

Therefore, the purpose of this seminar and the aim of the special issue of *management revue – Socio-Economic Studies* is to focus on digitalisation at work and its challenges and opportunities for employee voice and silence in cross-disciplinary discussions. Some context to discuss are listed below:



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- To what extent do technologies impact employee voice and silence?
- To what extent do employees make use of technology to ‘raise their voice’?
- What role do trade unions play when it comes to electronic (e.g., social media) employee voice?
- What is the impact of electronic (e.g., social media) voice on traditional mechanisms of employee voice?
- What is the effectiveness of electronic (e.g., social media) voice? How does it compare to the outcomes of traditional mechanisms?
- Why do electronic (e.g., social media) employee voice systems fail?
- What is the ‘dark side’ of electronic (e.g., social media) employee voice/silence?

These are just some ideas and not an exhaustive list. The seminar welcomes empirical studies as well as theoretical papers and provides enough time for discussion and reflection of each contribution.

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Deadline

Potential contributors to the **seminar at the IUC Dubrovnik** are encouraged to submit an abstract of five pages **before January 31st, 2020** electronically via the online submission system of *management revue – Socio-Economic Studies* using ‘IUC Dubrovnik’ as article section: <http://www.mrev.nomos.de/guidelines/submit-manuscript/>

Special Issue

All contributors to the seminar are invited to submit their paper for the **special issue** of *management revue – Socio-Economic Studies*. Full papers for this special issue of *management revue – Socio-Economic Studies* must be submitted by **August 30th, 2020**. All contributions will be subject to double-blind review. Papers invited to a ‘revise and resubmit’ are due February 28th, 2021. The publication is scheduled for issue 1/2022. Please submit your papers electronically via the online submission system at <http://www.mrev.nomos.de/> using ‘SI Employee Voice’ as article section.

Manuscript length should not exceed 8,000 words (excluding references) and the norm should be 30 pages in double-spaced type with margins of about 3 cm (1 inch) on each side of the page. Further, please follow the guidelines on the journal’s website (<http://www.mrev.nomos.de/guidelines/>).

Hoping to hear from you!

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