**The collective representation and regulation of work in the creative sectors**

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*Type of special session*: Presenting research papers

The special session provides the opportunity to present and discuss recent and ongoing research on the collective representation and regulation of work in the creative sectors (performing arts, film and TV industry, fashion, design, videogames, etc.).

Creative sectors represent a challenging environment for industrial relations, since workers are often highly-skilled professionals who work independently or are hired on temporary projects as freelancers/self-employed, or employed by small-sized enterprises. At the same time, some creative sectors are closely linked to the public sector, because they can rely on public funds (like theaters, orchestras, and the like) and this may entail some specific regulatory frameworks, which can affect terms of employment and working conditions. Above all, in many cases creative workers may experience at different stages of their career temporary and unstable employment, low pay and high pay differentials, long working hours, poor working conditions, so that collective representation and collective bargaining may help improve their situation and introduce fairer terms of employment.

The special session aims to further our understanding and knowledge on the following issues:

1. The distinct features of work in the creative sectors by highlighting commonalities and internal variations, which may affect terms of employment and working conditions, as well as the relevance and viability of collective representation and regulation;
2. The forms and nature of existing examples of collective representation and whether they refer to specific professional identities, the status of employee/self-employed or are more focused on business interests;
3. Experiences and outcomes of collective action and mobilization aimed to organize or regulate work in the creative sectors in both a top-down “external” perspective, when initiated by existing trade unions or employer associations, and a bottom-up “internal perspective” when activated by groups of workers in some specific sectors, areas or companies.

The presentation of research papers in the special session will be coordinated by a chair and it will be followed by Q&As, introduced by a discussant.