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## Editorial

Colin Crouch

*Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research* 2014 20: 3

DOI: 10.1177/1024258913515137

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## EDITORIAL

Transfer  
2014, Vol. 20(1) 3–5  
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The articles in this issue of *Transfer* report the main findings of a research project funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), on The Governance of Uncertainty and Sustainability: Tensions and Opportunities (GUSTO).<sup>1</sup> The project explored the challenges presented by the inevitable confrontation between the process of marketization, which is fundamental to the current stage of Europeanization, and the demand of working families for the reduction of uncertainty in their lives.

An introductory article sets out the main theme of the confrontation between markets and the demand for a reduction in life's uncertainties. A number of themes were chosen for special attention within the GUSTO research programme, and these are reflected in the articles presented in this issue. First, given the Europe-wide brief of the project, there was a clear need to focus on policies at the European level. Secondly, given the importance of collective bargaining for labour market issues, we studied its activities in governance of the security/flexibility puzzle. From among the range of substantive policy areas, we selected three for special attention: two because of their controversial and difficult nature – immigration and pensions – and one – the role of local government and other local territorial institutions – because (like collective bargaining) it enabled us to look at governance and policy-making at levels other than the nation state or the EU. All these aspects of our work concerned policy-making and strategic activity, whether by governments or others. Finally therefore we turned our attention to what was happening 'on the ground', at the level of individuals' experiences, taking advantage of the wealth of relatively comparable data available from national labour market surveys.

In this issue we also publish two other articles. One is on 'Austerity, union policy and gender equality bargaining' by Linda Briskin. The second is on 'Why do people join trade unions? The impact of workplace union density on union recruitment' by Jonas Toubøl and Carsten Strøby Jensen. This article is a revised version of their paper presented at the June 2013 ILERA conference which won the *Transfer* ILERA prize for young scholars.

**Colin Crouch**

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1 Grant No. 225301. The views expressed in this and the other contributions to this collection of articles do not necessarily represent the position of the European Commission.