

Perceptions, Responses and Challenges of Collecting Micro Data in Labour Conflict Situations

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ABSTRACT Settings such as strikes, lockouts and other forms of labour conflicts could lack well-developed systems for routine data collection. To understand labour conflict situations is to give some thought to the ways in which social facts can be and are gathered. The prestige of such a 'scientific study' is great enough that a number of non-researchers may wish to know about the methods adopted. The most valuable outcome is the re-examination of concepts, premises and procedures. Here lies the value of a higher level of methodological sophistication and greater precision in labour conflict research. Real concerns are those relating to ethics, physical security, political implications of activities in rapidly changing environments, logistical difficulties and the technical challenges of working with populations of unusual demographic compositions in the workplace. Therefore, the ethical bottom line must be that if data collection method cannot be used safely and responsibly, they should not be used at all. Micro data collection requires significant commitments of finances, human resources and time, but it can help ensure efficiency and success in the longer term as well as provide data for advocacy purposes. This paper examines the methodological tool of micro data collection, its perceptions, responses and challenges in labour conflict situations.