

New Perspectives on Occupational Closure: Licensure, Certification, and Unionization

Session Abstract:

This session highlights research on the methods by which occupations attempt to erect barriers to entry and protect the labor market position of incumbent workers. While labor unions have traditionally been strong institutions charged with the promotion of workers' economic statuses, over the last few decades we have seen the proliferation of licensing laws and certification programs that might offer some of the same benefits. Research from the United States and Canada suggests that licensure, certification and unionization are all alive and well, though not all workers benefit equally from such