

The railway sector in globalization
Between national specificities and transnational dynamics
Call to set up an international research network

International Workshop IRS (International Railway Studies)
12 and 13 December 2013, Université Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

Presentation of the IRS network

In February 2013, several social scientists met in Paris and decided to launch a call in order to build up a network : IRS. This network aims to study the railway sector in a large sense, its various national and transnational configurations, as well as its dynamics.

The objective of the IRS network, now supported by several laboratories associated with the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) is to encourage exchange and dialogue between sociologists, political scientists, historians, economists and other social scientists who, in many countries attempt to analyze restructuring that affected the "worlds" of railway transport in recent decades. Our network is also open to stakeholders in the railway sector : state officials, representatives of local authorities, railway business management, trade unions, etc.

International Workshop on 12 and 13 December 2013

In order to give our network an international dimension and encourage systematic comparisons we will organize on 12 and 13 December at the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (near Paris) an international workshop to be held in French, English and Spanish with two parts.

The **first part** will be an opportunity to present and discuss communications connected to the various issues proposed below. Communications will aim at presenting recent research works on the railway sector or at reviewing the state of the researches in a country. We suggest grouping the questions under 5 main issues:

- Macroeconomic policies and national dynamics of railway restructuring
- Railway and regional planning
- Management and dynamics of work, employment, occupations and industrial relations
- Role of professional, political and managing elites in transformation of the sector
- Users, customers, consumers, citizens: redefining the stereotypes of passengers / shippers and regulating services.

The **second part** of our two day workshop will be to discuss organization of an international conference that will probably take place during 2014.

How to participate in the workshop ?

Send us a proposal of 1500 characters to <ferinterfrance@gmail.com> **before 20 September 2013**, in English, French or Spanish. You will receive an answer before September 30th. The program will be finalised on October 15th at the latest.

Organizing Committee

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