

Karlstad Universitat

Karlstad University consists of four faculties and WLS is hosted by the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT. Our research focuses on work and labor market, especially aspects such as organization and organizational changes, unemployment, working conditions, competence and qualification. Examples of ongoing studies regard life mode analysis, gender and work, small businesses, flexibility, and working conditions in modern work organizations. Our research interests have successively become broader, and our networks include the national as well as the international levels. The department's empirical work over the years has been based on both the use of official statistical data and the construction of quantitative and qualitative data sets. Projects focusing on unemployment, working conditions and gender equality in the labor market in general are based on secondary analysis of large data sets such as the Swedish labor force survey. The construction of quantitative departmental data sets are based on random samples to employers and employees in projects studying for example flexibility, working conditions for micro entrepreneurs and the importance of aesthetics in service work. Furthermore a number of case studies directed towards paper and pulp industry, banks, higher education, public service, transportation etc. have been conducted using questionnaires. Finally, we have built up a comprehensive database of qualitative interviews derived from projects studying attitudes to work, experiences of public sector reorganization, gender relations and work segregation, and work-life balance in different life modes