The Political Construction of Business Interests

Many societies use labor market coordination to maximize economic growth and equality, yet employers’ willing cooperation with government and labor is something of a mystery. The Political Construction of Business Interests recounts employers’ struggles to define their collective social identities at turning points in capitalist development. Employers are most likely to support social investments in countries with strong peak business associations that help members form collective preferences and realize policy goals in labor market negotiations. Politicians, with incentives shaped by governmental structures, took the initiative in association building, and those that created the strongest associations were motivated to evade labor radicalism and to preempt parliamentary democratization. Sweeping in its historical and cross-national reach, the book builds on original archival data, interviews, and cross-national quantitative analyses. The research has important implications for the construction of business as a social class and powerful ramifications for equality, welfare state restructuring, and social solidarity.

Cathie Jo Martin is Professor of Political Science at Boston University and former chair of the Council for European Studies. She is the author of Stuck in Neutral: Business and the Politics of Human Capital Investment Policy (2000) and Shifting the Burden: The Struggle over Growth and Corporate Taxation (1991) and has held fellowships at the Radcliffe Institute and the Russell Sage Foundation.

Duane Swank is Professor of Political Science at Marquette University and Vice President/President-Elect of the American Political Science Association Organized Section in Comparative Politics. He is the author of Global Capital, Political Institutions, and Policy Change in Developed Welfare States (Cambridge 2002) and has held fellowships with the German Marshall Fund and at the Australian National University.
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(Continued after Index)
For Jim, Julian, and Jack. I love you with all my hearts (CJM)

For Melanie, Rob, Jennifer, and Mary Lou (DHS)
The Political Construction of Business Interests

Coordination, Growth, and Equality

CATHIE JO MARTIN
Boston University

DUANE SWANK
Marquette University
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