

# ***Corporate governance and industrial relations: A literature review and research agenda***

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## **ABSTRACT**

The search for more complete and satisfactory explanations of industrial relations phenomena has recently extended into the sphere of corporate governance. Two recent contributions to this literature (a special edition of the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*<sup>1</sup> and an edited book by Gospel and Pendleton<sup>2</sup>) articulate the importance of questions of corporate stewardship and financing to a range of industrial relations variables. In this paper, I venture further into the corporate governance literature in an effort to examine its value to industrial relations scholarship. It is contended that the utility of the corporate governance literature stems from its central debates over competing theoretical models of the firm. How the firm is conceptualised is of critical importance to the way in which it is governed and regulated. Moreover, these different perspectives of the firm help to explain variations in the relationship between workers, managers and owners and the independent behaviour of each of these parties. The paper concludes by outlining a possible research agenda for empirical examination of the nexus between corporate governance theories and issues and industrial relations.

<sup>1</sup> See *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, (2003) 41 (3).

<sup>2</sup> See Gospel, H and Pendleton, A (2004) (eds) *Corporate Governance and Labour Management: an International Perspective* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

