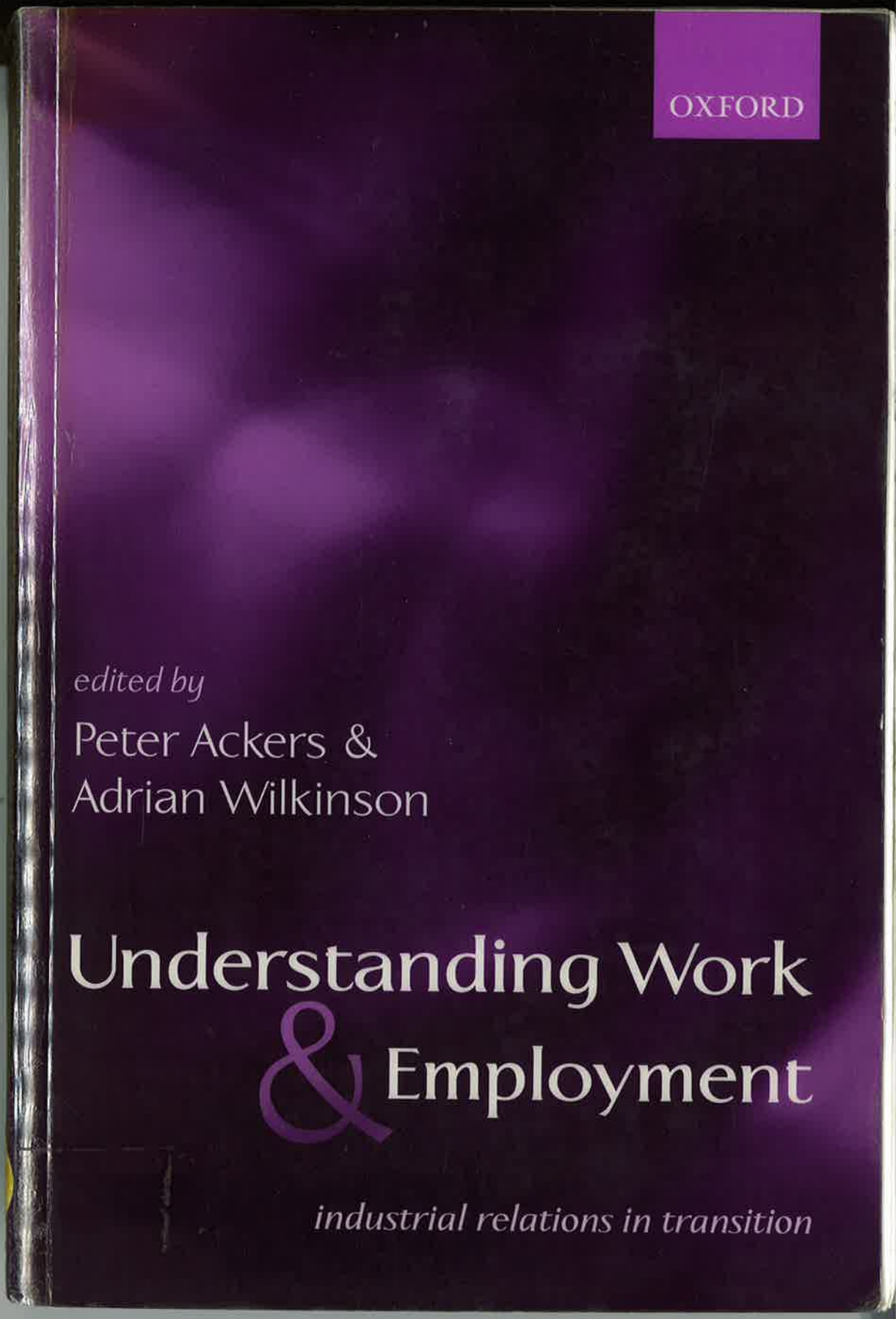

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edited by
Peter Ackers &
Adrian Wilkinson
Understanding Work
& Employment
industrial relations in transition

Understanding Work and Employment: Industrial Relations in Transition

Edited by
PETER ACKERS
ADRIAN WILKINSON

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Dedication

To Moira, Harry, George, and Helen
Jackie, Erin, and Aidan

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Understanding Work & Employment

industrial relations in transition

Peter Ackers & Adrian Wilkinson

This collection aims to analyse, advertise, and criticize the contribution of industrial relations to social science understanding. It brings together leading scholars to reconsider the theoretical foundations of industrial relations and its potential contribution to the wider understanding of work and economic life, to learn what it can gain from a stronger engagement with these surrounding disciplines and national traditions.

The introduction provides a critical, though broadly sympathetic, outline of the development of the mainstream industrial relations tradition. Part One recognizes the interdisciplinary character of industrial relations by concentrating on 'border encounters' with the cognate academic disciplines of sociology, economics, management, history, psychology, law, politics, and geography. Of particular interest is how far industrial relations has contributed to social science understanding beyond its own narrow borders. Part Two considers industrial relations thinking in North America, Australia, and Europe. Part Three looks forward to the potential contribution of industrial relations to our understanding of work, employment, and society by identifying a variety of key dilemmas and debates which call for new interdisciplinary thinking. Finally, the book ends with a critical reassessment of the industrial relations tradition.

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