

Introduction\*

In recent years the emerging discipline of industrial relations has been undergoing an agonizing appraisal both in terms of its subject matter and the methodology employed in its research. While studies in other social science disciplines such as economics, political science, and sociology have produced useful analytical research models and significant theoretical achievements, studies in industrial relations have been confined, with a few notable exceptions, to descriptive case studies, descriptive history, descriptions of collective agreement provisions, and formal analysis of statutory and common law developments. Where attempts have been made at some degree of generalization, these have been at the level of partial theory only. Unfortunately, the partial theories that have been developed have not yet been sufficiently integrated to provide even a minimum understanding of the totality of industrial relations behaviour.

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