About the Institute

The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a nonprofit research organization devoted to finding and promoting solutions to employment-related problems at the national, state, and local levels. It is an activity of the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation, which was established in 1932 to administer a fund set aside by Dr. W.E. Upjohn, founder of The Upjohn Company, to seek ways to counteract the loss of employment income during economic downturns.

The Institute is funded largely by income from the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trust, supplemented by outside grants, contracts, and sales of publications. Activities of the Institute comprise the following elements: 1) a research program conducted by a resident staff of professional social scientists; 2) a competitive grant program, which expands and complements the internal research program by providing financial support to researchers outside the Institute; 3) a publications program, which provides the major vehicle for disseminating the research of staff and grantees, as well as other selected works in the field; and 4) an Employment Management Services division, which manages most of the publicly funded employment and training programs in the local area.

The broad objectives of the Institute’s research, grant, and publication programs are to 1) promote scholarship and experimentation on issues of public and private employment and unemployment policy, and 2) make knowledge and scholarship relevant and useful to policymakers in their pursuit of solutions to employment and unemployment problems.

Current areas of concentration for these programs include causes, consequences, and measures to alleviate unemployment; social insurance and income maintenance programs; compensation; workforce quality; work arrangements; family labor issues; labor-management relations; and regional economic development and local labor markets.
"Morris Kleiner has produced the most thorough evaluation of the effects of occupational licensing in years, perhaps ever. In a rational world, this book would provoke interest by policymakers and the public in reconsidering where occupational licensing is beneficial for society, and where it is beneficial for those lucky enough to be granted licenses but not for society as a whole."

—Alan B. Krueger, Princeton University

"If you thought licensing was a boring minor issue in the labor market, this book will make you think again. Kleiner shows that a larger proportion of the work force is licensed than is in unions, and that licensing raises wages and lowers employment without demonstrably improving the quality of services."

—Richard B. Freeman, Harvard University

"In Licensing Occupations, Morris Kleiner opens the way for a long-overdue national dialogue on the efficacy of the U.S. professional and occupational regulatory system. His work will surely excite numerous and varied responses from public protection stakeholders."

—Pam Brinegar, Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR)

"All facts and potential consequences of licensing occupations will be better understood after reading this wonderful and timely book."

—Francis Kramarz, Crest-Insee and Ecole Polytechnique, France

"Occupational licensure is stealth regulation. It has a profound impact on labor markets and prices without getting nearly the scrutiny that other labor market interventions do. Morris Kleiner has brought the light of day to this increasingly important topic, laying out the history and economic impact of the steady rise in the number of licensed occupations. In the process, he asks the most important question of all: Is this good for consumers?"

—Charles Wheelan, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

"In this magisterial book Morris Kleiner documents what we know about the impact of occupational licensing and presents his own research findings. Kleiner is particularly good on international comparisons. His detailed analysis of licensing in France, Germany and the UK suggests there are much lower wage effects of licensing in the EU than in the U.S. This is a consequence of more intense EU regulation of prices charged and of the organisational structure of the professions."

—David Metcalf, London School of Economics