

International Handbook of Occupational Licensing

Call for Chapter Proposals

March 2024

The editors are soliciting chapter proposals for a handbook of country profiles of occupational licensing around the world. The handbook will include profiles of licensing in countries from all seven continents as well as discussions of the background of the institution and future policy applications of the profiles. The editors encourage proposals about countries for which there is little or no existing published licensing research, as well as for countries for which there is published licensing research. In addition to writing, authors will participate in two sets of workshops to support the handbook and will serve as referee for at least one other chapter. Preference will be given to proposals for solo-authored chapters but coauthored chapters will be considered. This call for proposals includes an overview of the handbook and its contribution to the literature, the timeline for delivery, and the structure and required elements of each chapter.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Darwynn Deyo, San José State University (darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu)

Alicia Plemmons, West Virginia University (alicia.plemmons@mail.wvu.edu)

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of chapter proposals due: May 1, 2024

First drafts due: October 31, 2024

First workshops: January 2025

Second drafts due: March 30, 2025

Second workshop: August 1–2, 2025

Final drafts due: September 15, 2025

RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE

The extent and effects of licensing have been rigorously studied in the United States, but research on other countries is sparser, especially within Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. Journal articles on the US, the United Kingdom, and Europe highlight the degree of licensing within the West, but policy discussions and changes in these places take place without an understanding of the global context and evolution of licensing. Previous books have also focused on the US and Europe, but interest in the subject has grown within these countries and throughout the world.

This handbook will fill this gap in the literature on an important labor market institution that has historical roots dating back thousands of years and varies extensively in form, scope, and scale between countries. It will also connect scholars from around the world and identify experts on licensing within specific countries and regions to support future research and analysis of policy reforms. Authors will either bring research on licensing in a given country to a broader readership or synthesize existing global or regional research.

RESEARCH AREAS

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information on a critical research area within the field of regulation. The licensing literature is expansive and has been cited by legislators around the world while making policy decisions, yet this research has been primarily conducted in the US, United Kingdom, and European Union. There are several reasons for this focus, such as the large number of scholars focused on law and economics in the contemporary US. However, the state-level system of licensing in the US is not fully representative of licensing around the world, and much of the US-based research cannot be extrapolated to other governmental systems and institutional structures.

Occupational licensing means government permission is required before an individual can work for pay in their field. Specific requirements include fees, education, experience, examinations, and several other barriers that may cause individuals to forgo employment entirely or shift to the informal sector. Licensing regulations discussed in this book may include a license to practice as well as a license to professional title. While the purpose of occupational licensing is to ensure quality and safety, there are also concerns of rent-seeking and protectionism by incumbent providers. Licensing provides a mechanism for which existing providers can restrict or limit competition. This often leads to worker shortages and increased prices for consumers.

The number of licensing studies focused outside the US is steadily increasing but still highly limited. The lack of investigation is not due to lack of interest—in fact, the need for an international study on licensure has been discussed among regulation scholars for over a decade. The primary reasons for this lacuna have been lack of data availability and the substantial effort it would take to create a useful measure for cross-country analysis because of barriers in language, differences in institutional structures, some governments' unwillingness to provide information on occupations, and scholars' lack of familiarity with cultural and economic norms of some regions.

There is a vital need to better understand international occupational licensing and how laborers and consumers everywhere are affected by it. We have designed this handbook to fill this gap in the literature by using our international network of scholars (and US-based scholars with dual citizenship) to develop a reference work of country-specific investigations into licensure all around the world. The editors are soliciting submissions from all seven continents and encourage participation from economics scholars from underrepresented regions and countries.

STRUCTURE AND ELEMENTS FOR PROPOSALS AND CHAPTERS

The editors welcome chapter profiles on countries in all seven continents. Chapters will be statistically and narratively descriptive (rather than provide an econometric analysis) and accessible to both scholars and lay readers. To ensure high quality and stylistic consistency across the handbook, both proposals and chapters will follow a standardized format. All submissions must be in English.

Please note that due to the large number of scholars, the US chapter will be highly competitive. Authors are encouraged to submit proposals for different countries into which they can provide analysis and insight.

Proposal Elements

Applicants may use their own template to submit proposals, but all proposals must address the questions below. Proposals may include additional information that the applicant thinks is relevant to their chapter. Proposals must be submitted in Microsoft Word or Google Docs format. As noted, preference will be

given to proposals for solo-authored chapters, but coauthored chapters will be considered. Authors must address the following questions in their proposal:

1. Which country do you propose to provide a chapter on?
2. What does occupational licensing look like as an institution within that country? At what level of government are occupations regulated? Provide a broad overview of the current state of affairs.
3. What licensing and other workforce data will you use to complete the chapter? Provide a source for the data set(s) in your proposal. If you plan to work with an agency to obtain data, please include a letter from the agency confirming your access to the data. Will you be able to include estimates of workforce characteristics and wages? Describe the categories of licensing data you have access to in your proposal.
4. What is your previous work or expertise on occupational licensing, and what other relevant expertise do you have? Please provide a summary (200-500 words). Have you ever contributed to a book before? If so, please provide the citation and contact for the editor(s).

Authors should also include their CV with their proposal.

Chapter Elements

Chapters will be solicited from authors of successful proposals. The edited volume is meant for a readership of policy-focused academics and non-academics who might not have extensive knowledge of a country or institutional structure of interest. The writing should thus be for a general audience.

Chapters should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words, including references, and adhere to the following structure:

1. **Institutional Overview:** Describe the institution of occupational licensing in the country; provide relevant background, history, and the current state of affairs at a high level of generality.
2. **Literature Overview:** Provide a high-level overview of the literature on licensing in the country, if any, and any studies of employment and wages, relevant labor market institutions and regulations, demographic factors, and any other relevant literature (e.g., credentialism, registration, guilds, shadow labor markets, and formal and informal entrepreneurship). Authors should also include an overview of how regulators tie licensing requirements to quality, public health, or public safety outcomes, if at all.
3. **Data Description:** Describe and explain the data source for occupational licensing in the country, specify the period the data covers, list any other supplemental data to be referenced in the chapter, and explain whether the licensing data reflect coverage, attainment, or both.
4. **Country Dynamics:** Describe the dynamics of licensing in the country, including the following issues: federalist versus centralized or national systems of licensing; the main regulators of licensing (e.g., licensing departments, agencies, boards, universities); the scope of licensing (i.e., how many occupations are licensed); the scale of licensing (i.e., how much of the workforce needs a license to work); which occupations or industries are licensed; the demographics of licensees (e.g., trends by gender, industry sector, rural/urban status, or education level); any relevant special interest groups, including professional associations, in the country; citizenship or residency requirements; bans for people with criminal records; and, if possible, wage premiums or wage trends.

5. **Table of Descriptive Data:** Include a table of descriptive data. These data will be combined across countries by book section to produce a single table per section. The table should be formatted for Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, or another editable spreadsheet program and include the name of the country, years covered in the study, an indicator of whether licensing is federalist or national, an indicator of whether standards are set by a legislative body or professional associations, the number of licensed occupations, citizenship or residency requirements, an indicator for whether people with criminal records are banned, the percentage of the workforce that needs a license, the percentage of the civilian population in the formal labor market, the period studied, the average national wage, the median national wage, the average wage for licensed occupations (if available), and the median wage for licensed occupations (if available).

COMPLETE TIMELINE

May 1, 2024: Chapter proposals are due.

May 30, 2024: Editors' decision on chapter proposals and letters of intent are sent to authors.

June 15, 2024: Letters of intent are due from authors.

October 31, 2024: First drafts are due from authors.

November 15, 2024: First drafts are sent by editors to reviewers.

January 2025: Rolling in-person workshops take place by region. Referee reports are due to authors before the start of the workshop.

March 30, 2025: Second drafts are due from authors.

April 15, 2025: Second drafts are sent by editors to reviewers.

June 1, 2025: Referee reports are due to authors.

August 1–2, 2025: Virtual author workshop takes place.

September 15, 2025: Final drafts are due to editors.

September 30, 2025: Editors send chapters to publisher.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Author Collaboration Workshops

To support authors in their revisions and chapter development, and to identify synergies across chapters within each section, we are applying for grants to support two rounds of workshops and a significant honorarium for selected authors. The editors expect to provide honorarium details prior to chapter selection. The first round of workshops will focus on feedback on and revisions to the first drafts, while the second round will do the same for second drafts before final drafts are sent to the editors.

In-Person Workshops

The first round of workshops for each section will take place on a rolling basis in person in the region associated with that section. This will reduce travel costs for authors and avoid visa difficulties for authors located outside of the US while still providing valuable in-person discussion and feedback that will enrich the handbook and ensure consistency between chapters within sections at the first-draft stage. The workshops will also develop networks between authors in the same region, supporting later promotion of the handbook in that region.

The editors will plan, attend, and moderate each workshop. Referee reports by authors and external reviewers are due before the start of the workshop. Each workshop will include a convening and dinner the night before the workshop, followed by a daylong workshop before authors depart the following day. The workshop will include dedicated time for presentations of each chapter, followed by discussion by the assigned chapter referee and feedback from other participants. Editors will synthesize notes and feedback and provide comments to authors after the workshop. We have successfully modeled this method in other settings.¹ The specific dates and locations for each workshop are pending determination of the final chapter list, but all workshops will take place during January 2025.

Virtual Workshop

The second workshop will take place virtually and include all authors in the handbook. The virtual setting ensures that all authors will meet each other at least once and allows for additional discussion between authors from different sections working on second drafts before final revisions are submitted to the editors.

The editors will plan, attend, and moderate each workshop. The virtual workshop will take place over two days and will include sessions for each section of the book, with short presentations by each author and time for feedback from other participants. Breaking the workshop into two days accommodates authors in many time zones. The virtual workshop will take place August 1–2, 2025.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

The editors will manage the editorial and review process for the submissions. All papers are subject to the standard referee process. Submissions must be original, unpublished works that are not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere.

Proposal Submissions

Interested authors should submit complete proposals to the editors no later than May 1, 2024. Proposals should include all elements described above. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for review.

All proposals should be sent to the editors at deyoplemmonsbook@gmail.com.

Chapter Submissions

Selected authors will commit to writing and revising three drafts of their chapter before it is sent to the publisher as well as completing additional revisions required by the publisher. Details, including due

¹ 2024 SERN Applied Microeconomics Research Workshop, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QsHxqEQJBQ6dHyebrkWb8PGFJvjX1e-L/view>

dates and funding conditions, will be included in the letter of intent that authors will return to the editors before beginning the first draft. First drafts will be due to editors on a rolling basis in January 2025. The specific date will be tied to the date of the in-person workshop in the associated region. Second drafts will all be due to the editors by March 30, 2025. Final drafts will all be due to the editors by September 15, 2025.

All chapter drafts should be sent to the editors at deyoplemmonsbook@gmail.com.