

Politics and Society Workshop, 2025

Meso-Level Perspectives on Paid Work in Contemporary Society

30th -31st January 2025, Marseille

The Worlds of Labour — LEST / IMéRA Chair, the ERC-funded project “Deindustrializing Societies and the Political Consequences (DESPO)” at the University of Milan, and The Chair of Political Economy at the University of Bonn are happy to announce their collaboration to host a fourth event of the Politics and Society Workshop Series started in 2022.

The 2025 workshop will be held at LEST, University Aix-Marseille on January 30th and 31st.

For this workshop we aim to approach the study of paid work under a broader meso-level perspective. We are indeed interested to reflect both on the more conventional material forms of meso-levels (e.g. community, neighbourhoods, workplace, institutions, policies) but also on their immaterial manifestations (e.g. norms, culture, trends, uses). We welcome contributions that investigate how the material and immaterial work context in which individuals are embedded in shape their opportunities across the life-course.

Our goal is to bring together cross-disciplinary research exploiting the richness of different methodological angles to investigate more broadly what is the role of paid work in societies characterised by rising patterns of deindustrialisation, AI development, skills mismatch, and, overall, misalignment between work demand and supply. **We welcome in particular presentations that adopt qualitative and mixed methods approaches to develop speculative and descriptive work.** We strongly encourage presentations using, biographical interviews, longitudinal data of individuals or communities, as well as experimental approaches. Finally we want to stress our interest in analyses about the global South.

Submissions and any clarifying questions should be sent via email to Franco Bonomi Bezzo (franco.bonomibezzo@outlook.com). **Submissions should take the form of an abstract (maximum 500 words) and they should be sent by the 30th of September 2024.** Preliminary drafts and research ideas are welcome. Notification of acceptance for presentation will be sent by October 30th. Please note that the workshop is thematically rather different from our previous meetings. When in doubt whether your current projects fit the theme, do not hesitate to contact us before submission.

There are no participation fees, and we aim to cover up to 200€ per person for travel expenses **for young scholars**.

The organising committee: Franco Bonomi Bezzo (University of Milan, Chair IMéRA-LEST, INED); Anne-Marie Jeannet (University of Milan), Paul Marx (University of Bonn, IZA), Thierry Berthet (CNRS, Université Aix-Marseille), Francesca Petrella (Université Aix-Marseille).