

Technology and the Future of Labour: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Thursday 24 - Friday 25 March 2022
Hybrid conference

Convenors:

Professor Sascha O. Becker, Monash University and University of Warwick

Dr Hyejin Ku, University College London



In partnership with:



This is a hybrid conference with speakers either participating in-person at The British Academy or virtually (V) as indicated below.

Day 1: Thursday 24 March 2022

10:00-10:20	Welcome coffee
10:20-11:40	Session 1: Technology, innovation, and long-term prosperity Professor John Van Reenen FBA (London School of Economics): 'Firms and Inequality' Professor Joachim Voth (University of Zurich): 'Technological change and labour demand: Evidence from the British Industrial Revolution'
11:40-11:55	Break
11:55-13:15	Session 2: Technology and labour in history Professor Robert Allen FBA (New York University Abu Dhabi): 'Service with a Frown: 400 years of interplay between technical change, globalization, and the Labour market' Professor Nicholas Crafts FBA (University of Sussex) and Former Director of ESRC Research Centre, Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE), University of Warwick: 'The 15-hour week: Keynes's Prediction Revisited'
13:15-14:15:	Lunch Break
14:15-15:35:	Session 3: Evolution of technology and labour Professor Claudia Steinwender (University of Munich): 'Omnia Juncta in Uno: Foreign Powers and Trademark Protection in Shanghai's Concession Era' Professor Stephen Machin FBA (London School of Economics): 'Technology, Labour Market Institutions and Inequality'
15:35-15:50:	Coffee Break
15:50-17:10:	Session 4: Technology, firms, and Entrepreneurship Dr Reka Juhasz (Columbia University) (V): 'Technology Adoption and Productivity Growth: Evidence from Industrialisation in France' Professor Kathryn Shaw (Stanford University) (V): 'AI as Augmentation: Lifting Product Quality via a Startup's Innovations'
17:10-18:30:	Session 5: The meaning of work and labour Professor David Autor (Massachusetts Institute of Technology): 'The Work of the Future -- Where Will it Come From?' Professor Kaushik Basu (Cornell University and former Chief Economist of the World Bank) 'The Concept of Labour in the context of Technological Change'
18:30-20:00:	Reception at the British Academy

Day 2: Friday 25 March 2022

- 10:00-10:20: Welcome coffee
- 10:20-11:40: **Session 6: Changing work arrangements and implications**
Dr Ekkehard Ernst, Chief Macroeconomist (International Labour Organisation):
'The AI trilemma: Saving the planet without ruining our jobs'

Professor Uta Schoenberg (University College London):
'Knowledge Spillover and Individual Careers'
- 11:40-12:00: Coffee Break
- 12:00-13:20: **Session 7: The race between education and technology**
Professor Lawrence Katz (Harvard University) (V):
'Revisiting the Race between Education and Technology'

Professor Christian Dustmann FBA (University College London) and Director of the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM):
'Technology and Regional Development: Lessons from Germany'
- 13:20-14:20: Lunch Break
- 14:20-15:40: **Session 8: Determinants of technical change**
Professor Suresh Naidu (Columbia University) (V):
'Technologies for workplace control and collective action in historical perspective'

Dr Pascual Restrepo (Boston University) (V):
'The Origins and Consequences of the Current Wave of Automation'
- 15:40-16:00: Coffee Break
- 16:00-17:00: **Session 9: Technology: what next for workers? (Policy round table)**
Chair: Dr Martin Sandbu, European Economics Commentator (Financial Times)
Panellists:
Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides FBA (London School of Economics and Institute for the Future of Work)
Professor Kathryn Shaw (Stanford University) (V)
Professor Kaushik Basu (Cornell University and former Chief Economist of the World Bank)
Professor David Autor (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- 17:00 End of conference