Cross-National Comparative Labour Market Research  
Seminar, 2nd term 2015-2016  

Organized by Hans-Peter Blossfeld
(Meetings by appointment)

Please register online  
Contact: Adele.Battistini@EUI.eu

Description

Post-industrial labor markets are social institutions where social relationships, customs and rules dominate the structure of market exchange. If we want to understand social stratification in advanced economies we need to understand how these labor markets operate. The seminar will familiarize students with a variety of sociological and economic theories about how labor markets work. We will then apply this analytical framework to evaluate empirical research on e.g. the long-term transformation of work, changing job supply and demand, changing qualification requirements (upgrading, downgrading), job mobility and career patterns, different employment and job opportunities for men and women, changes of gender inequality, the role of part-time and atypical work, rising wage inequality and unemployment, the globalization and flexibilization of labor markets in modern societies as well as the impact of immigration. We also want to debate the impact labor market and family policies and different welfare state regimes. Among the public policies offered are social insurance and assistance programs that provide income protection and supportive services to persons experiencing unemployment, retirement, disability, or poverty as well as programs of education. Wherever possible, we will focus on cross-national comparisons.

Schedule

The seminar will take place on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 13:00, in Seminar Room 2 in the Badia, and will run from Tuesday 12th January to Tuesday 15th March. The full list of the seminar sessions is the following:

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th January</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 19th January</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Tuesday 26th January</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 2nd February</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th February</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th February</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st March</td>
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<td>Session 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th March</td>
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<td>Session 10</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th March</td>
<td>11:00 – 13:00</td>
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Attendance Requirements:

The seminar will include a combination of seminar presentations and discussions. At the beginning of the seminar, it will be decided who will prepare and present the specific seminar sessions. Topics will be assigned as much as possible according to researchers’ preferences. For students who wish to take this seminar for credit (the seminar is worth 20 credits) have to fulfil three main requirements: (1) meeting the Department attendance requirement (minimum 8 seminar attendances) (2) completion of all required readings for each session, (3) active participation in the seminar discussions; and (4) two seminar presentations each with a 3-5 page memo or a PowerPoint presentation in which the presenter reflects on the assigned readings for that session topic and relates them to earlier assigned readings in the seminar. The memos/presentations have to be sent the latest in the afternoon before the day of the seminar to Hans-Peter Blossfeld and also to all the seminar participants. Researchers have the option of writing a term paper based on the debate topics at the end of the term. If they wish to take this option they should discuss the proposed topic with Hans-Peter Blossfeld in advance before the Department’s due date for term papers. The term papers should be submitted to Hans-Peter Blossfeld (hp.blossfeld@eui.eu) with a cc: to Adele Battistini adele.battistini@eui.eu).

Seminar Overview and Readings

Session 1: Introduction to the seminar
(Goals of the seminar; introductions to key topics; literature selection)


Session 2: Long-term structural changes of occupations and industries and consequences


**Session 3: Theoretical issues I: Job search, employer search and labor market dynamics**


**Session 4: Theoretical Issues II: Internal labour markets, job ladders and vacancy chains**


**Session 5: Employment relationships, labor market structure and unemployment**


Session 6: Gender, family and paid employment


Session 7: Gender inequality in the labour market


Session 8: Welfare states and labour market policy


Session 9: Globalization and changes in the labour market


Session 10: Migration and the labor market


