

CES Lectures

Structural Trends in Jobs and Wage Inequality

Prof. Michael J. Böhm

This course examines how labour markets respond to changes in firm behaviour, technology, and the structure of jobs. The first block studies the firm side of wage setting, including imperfect competition, monopsony, and the role of heterogeneous firms in shaping employment and pay. The second block focuses on how technological change alters the task content of work, changes the demand for different skills, and contributes to wage inequality and occupational change. The third block turns to labour supply responses and asks how workers reallocate across occupations and sectors when shocks hit the economy, and why these adjustment processes can be slow and amplify effects on inequality.

Dates:

Tuesday, 13 October 2026, 10:15–11:45

Wednesday, 14 October 2026, 14:15–15:45

Tuesday, 20 October 2026, 10:15–11:45.

Lecture 1: The role of market imperfections and firms

- Autor, D., Dube, A., and McGrew, A. (2024). *The Unexpected Compression: Competition at Work in the Low Wage Labor Market*. NBER Working Paper 31010.
- Card, D., Cardoso, A. R., Heining, J., and Kline, P. (2018). *Firms and Labor Market Inequality: Evidence and Some Theory*. Journal of Labor Economics.
- Goldschmidt, D. and Schmieder, J. F. (2017). *The Rise of Domestic Outsourcing and the Evolution of the German Wage Structure*. Quarterly Journal of Economics.
- DiNardo, J., Fortin, N. M., and Lemieux, T. (1996). *Labor Market Institutions and the Distribution of Wages, 1973–1992: A Semiparametric Approach*. Econometrica.

Lecture 2: Technologies' effects on the job structure

- Acemoglu, D. and Autor, D. (2011). *Skills, Tasks and Technologies: Implications for Employment and Earnings*. In Handbook of Labor Economics.
- Autor, D., Chin, C., Salomons, A. M., and Seegmiller, B. (2024). *New Frontiers: The Origins and Content of New Work, 1940–2018*. Quarterly Journal of Economics.
- Autor, D. and Thompson, N. (2025). *Expertise*. Journal of the European Economic Association.
- Freund, L. B. and Mann, L. F. (2026). *Job Transformation, Specialization, and the Labor Market Effects of AI*. Working paper.

Lecture 3: The role of labour supply responses

- Bocquet, L. (2024). *The Network Origin of Slow Labor Reallocation*. Working paper.
- Böhm, M., Etheridge, B., and Irastorza-Fadrique, A. (2026). *Heterogeneity and Aggregation in Labour Market Adjustment*. Working paper.
- Fan, T. (2025). *The Labor Market Incidence of New Technologies*. Working paper.