

# The Future of Work

## Employment, Skills, and Labor Market Policies Revisited

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### Course Description

Over the past few months, labor market prospects have worsened rapidly due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on labor supply and labor demand. The pandemic has slowed the demand for goods and services, reduced the supply of inputs, tightened liquidity, and heightened uncertainty. Many people have become vulnerable to reduced incomes, furloughs, or layoffs. Many millions of jobs could be lost permanently.

At the same time, we have witnessed an unprecedented and rapid shift in the way that those who have kept their jobs work, with home-based work suddenly becoming the new normal.

But let's take a step back. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many types of disruption linked to technological change and shifting patterns of demand had already been challenging labor markets in many countries, with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. While the impending geopolitical, socio-demographic, and technological changes hold great promise, the patterns of consumption, production and employment created by it also pose major challenges requiring proactive adaptation by corporations, governments and individuals.

This course is a first step in understanding the current labor market problematics: identifying the issues at stake, reviewing labor market policies that have been/are being implemented, rethinking social protection, and preparing the next-generation workforce for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Each module/session will be built around a presentation by the lecturer, followed by a short debate with the whole class. External speakers may be brought in to discuss their own field of research related to the module topic (TBC). The course will have a strong focus on data sources and how to build evidence on labor market issues.

For each course, you will be asked to read articles/papers or/and listen to a podcast or/and watch a video. The material will be discussed during the class debate.

### Course schedule

The course will take place on Mondays, from 9am to 12pm.

### Course agenda

Module 1: Concepts and definitions, issues at stake, data sources.

Module 2: Who has been most affected by the most recent changes on the labor market?

Module 3: The mitigating/ed impact of Active Labor Market Policies (ALMPs)

Module 4: Innovative solutions and behavioral economics

Module 5: Students' oral presentations by group of 2-3 persons (length of presentation: 15 min)

Module 6: Beyond labor market policies

Module 7: Rethinking social protection: covering gaps, non-standard workers, universal basic income

Module 8: Preparing the workforce for the world of tomorrow / Final exam

### Course grading

- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> = class participation
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> = a mid-term presentation (by group of 2-3 students on a topic defined at the end of Module 2)
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> = a final written exam during the last class (duration 1.5 hours)