

Debating the Future of Work: Challenges and Prospects

Hilton Hotel Sheffield, 28-29 May 2019

Day One

09.30 – 10.15	Arrival, registration and refreshments
10.15 – 10.30	Welcome. Jason Heyes (Director of the Centre for Decent Work)
10.30 – 11.15	Introduction: The Future of Work centenary initiative <i>This session will introduce the ILO's centenary initiative and describe the content and recommendations of the report due to be published in January 2019.</i> Speakers: Maria-Luz Vega (ILO). Chair: Jason Heyes
11.15 – 12.45	Session 1: Labour market transitions, skills and lifelong learning <i>Labour market transitions have become more challenging, particularly for young people. How might public policy better support transitions between education and work, between different jobs and between work and retirement? How are skill requirements changing? To what extent are skill mismatches and under-utilisation problems, who is affected and how should policy makers and social partners respond? What do we mean by lifelong learning and who will fund it? What can be done to ensure that opportunities for skill and knowledge acquisition are made available to all workers?</i> Moderator: B Srinivas Reddy (ILO) Speakers: Burt Barnow (George Washington, USA), Seamus McGuinness (ESRI, Ireland), TBC.
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 15.15	Session 2: New forms of employment and the future of social protection <i>The growth in non-standard forms of employment is associated with an increase in the proportion of workers who lack employment rights and social protection. How might labour laws and social protection rules be re-designed to make regulation more inclusive?</i> Moderator: Kostas Papadakis (ILO) Panel members: Jill Rubery (Manchester, UK), Janine Leschke (Copenhagen, Denmark), Colin Williams (Sheffield, UK)
15.15 – 15.30	Refreshments
15.30 – 17.00	Session 3: Diversity and inclusion <i>Despite the widespread implementation of public policies and organisational practices intended to promote equal opportunities, prevent discrimination and ensure workforce diversity, discrimination on the grounds of gender, race and disability remains pervasive and other obstacles to labour market participation persist. Many workers, therefore, continue to experience disadvantage in relation to their employment opportunities, pay, training and career development. What can be done to make labour markets more inclusive and bring about greater equality in the world of work?</i> Moderator: Caroline O'Reilly (ILO) Speakers: Pauline Dibben (Sheffield, UK), Nelarine Cornelius (Queen Mary, UK), Anne-Marie Greene (Leicester, UK)
18.30 – 21.30	Drinks reception followed by Conference dinner at Kelham Island Industrial Museum.

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09.00 – 10.30	<p>Session 4: Work, Caring and Wellbeing <i>Societies are ageing and the number of workers with care responsibilities is increasing. What are the consequences for employers, workers and those they care for? What are the implications for gender inequality? How are employers and trade unions responding? How might policy makers address the issue?</i> Moderator: Shauna Olney (ILO) Speakers: Susan Yeandle (University of Sheffield, UK), Janet Fast (Alberta, Canada), Marian Baird (Sydney, Australia)</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Refreshments
10.45 – 12.15	<p>Session 5. Work organisation, technology and job quality <i>It is often argued that new technologies and the spread of robotisation and automation will lead to widespread job losses in the near future. Others argue that the extent of job loss has been overstated and that technological developments will also lead to the creation of new jobs. Technological developments have clearly had consequences for the organisation of work by, for example, facilitating the emergence of the collaborative/sharing economy, enabling the growth of home working and providing employers with new means of surveillance. This session will assess the consequences for job quality and discuss the implications for policy and practice.</i> Moderator: Damian Grimshaw (ILO) Speaker: Kirsty Newsome (Sheffield, UK), Alex Wood (Oxford, UK), Jonathan Payne (De Montfort, UK)</p>
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.45	<p>Session 6. Governance, labour administration and social dialogue <i>Changes in the world of work have created new challenges for labour administration bodies, such as labour inspectorates and public employment services. How have they responded to these challenges? How might labour administration be made more effective? What role can social dialogue play in ensuring effective labour governance and inclusive economic growth?</i> Moderator: Ludek Rychly (ILO) Speakers: Christopher King (University of Texas at Austin), Jason Heyes (University of Sheffield, UK), Ryuichi Yamakawa (Central Labour Relations Commission and University of Tokyo, Japan).</p>
14.45 – 15.00	Refreshments
15.00 – 16.30	<p>Session 7. Work and the Environment <i>Climate change and environmental degradation present substantial challenges and threats to work and employment, including the destruction of jobs and increases in certain occupational health and safety risks. Policies aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability, by contrast, might encourage growth in 'green jobs' and the development of new industries. How might this affect the quantity and quality of jobs? How might economies' skills requirements be affected? Are there sound reasons for believing that green jobs will necessarily be decent jobs?</i> Moderator: TBC Speakers: David Uzzell (Surrey, UK), Dean Stroud (Cardiff, UK), Linda Clarke (Westminster, UK).</p>
16.30 – 17.30	<p>Session 8: Conclusions and issues for future research Panel: Damian Grimshaw (ILO), Peter Nolan (Leicester, UK), plus TBC.</p>
17.30	Close