







Automation, Trade, and Global Value Chains: New Empirical Evidence and Theory Development

28-29 November, 2024 – Parma, Italy

CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to submit a paper for inclusion in the Workshop "Automation, Trade, and Global Value Chains: New Empirical Evidence and Theory Development", to be held in Parma, Italy on 28th and 29th November 2024, jointly organised by University of Parma, University of Pisa, GLINNOD, and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa), supported by the Italian Ministry University and Research and the European Union – Next Generation EU within the PRIN 2022 research project "Automation, Trade, and Global Value Chains: New Empirical Evidence and Theory Development" (Grant Number 2022ACJ2WS – CUP J53D23004320006).

The Workshop aims at developing an integrated analysis of the opportunities and threats generated by the automation and globalization processes for workers, firms and countries, starting from the assumption that there is a mutual interaction between the generation of new technological knowledge and the activities carried out by the firms on a global scale. The following three topics and related research questions are of particular interest, although contributions from related fields will be nonetheless appreciated.

1. Firms and workers in the digital era

Emerging technologies belonging to the digitalization and automation domains, including AI, produce a significant impact along many dimensions: the displacement of a particular category of jobs, wage inequalities across workers and firms, or increasing market power and rents. What are the main characteristics of the firms involved in the process of development and adoption of new emerging technologies? What are the main evolutionary trends of these technologies? What are the effects of technologies and firms innovation and adoption practices on employment, workers conditions, and inequality?

2. Automation, innovation and trade

The adoption trend of automation technologies, especially industrial robots and AI, is continuously rising. While the impact on labour market dynamics is deeply investigated, the impact on further variables such as innovation rate or international activities of the firms are under searched. Moreover, besides the impact these technologies may have on countries that adopt them, third countries may be affected as well through Global Value Chain (GVC) relationship. What does explain the heterogeneity in automation adoption patterns across countries, sectors and firms? What is the effect of automation adoption on trade and employment in foreign countries?

3. Global value chains

Innovation is strictly related to global value chains, since innovation appears as a significant driver of GVC participation, whereas access to GVCs offers opportunities to foster innovation and upgrade towards more valuable activities. What kind of opportunities offer digital and automation technologies for upgrading in global value chains? How this is related to other features of global trade (e.g. offshoring or reshoring processes)? What is the impact of national and sectoral systems of innovation?

Organisational details

The Workshop will take place in Parma, Italy. It will span over two days, with a mix of contributed presentations and invited keynote addresses. No fee is required, with the possibility of covering accommodation costs (1 night – priority for PhD students / young researchers).

Submission and selection process

Please send an email to gianluca.capone@unipr.it specifying in the object that you wish to participate to the Workshop. Please list your co-authors (if any) and attach either a full paper or a 2/3 pages extended abstract. The scientific committee will select the contributions based on scientific quality and relevance for the research project.

Keynote speakers

- Fulvio Castellacci, TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo
- Konstantin M. Wacker, University of Groningen
- TBA

Important dates

- 10th September, 2024: Deadline for submission of extended abstracts
- \bullet 17th September, 2024: Notification of acceptance by the scientific committee
- \bullet 20th November, 2024: Deadline for submission of full paper
- 28th November, 2024: Start of the Workshop

Scientific & Organizing Committee

- Daniele Moschella (PI Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna)
- Jacopo Canello (University of Parma)
- Gianluca Capone (University of Parma)
- Angelo Cuzzola (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna)
- Chiara Franco (University of Pisa)
- Martina Iori (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna)
- Cristina Re (University of Parma)
- Francesco Suppressa (University of Pisa)