

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20113]

Proposed title of the session

Wages and global development since 1950/1960s: diversity and convergence between emerging and advanced countries

Abstract

Globalisation has effects on prices, costs and incomes and this aspect is less often discussed (see e. g. Slaughter, M, Swagel, P, "The Effect of Globalisation on Wages in the Advanced Economies", IMF WP 97/43, 1997, Gindling, T. H, Terrell, K, "Minimum Wages, Inequality and Globalization", Bonn, FZA, Discussion Paper n°1160, May 2004, Holz C. A, Mehrotra, A, "Wage and price dynamics in a large emerging economy: The case of China", BRI, Working papers n°409, April 2013. Huwart, J-Y, Verdier, L, "Does globalisation promote employment?" Economic Globalisation: Origins and consequences, OECD, 2013, p 88-107 etc.). Because the dimension "price / income" of globalisation is itself extremely broad (purchasing power, inflation, relative prices, terms of trade), the pre-conference and the workshop will intend to focus the analysis on wages that measure both price and income of the wage labor. In advanced countries, wages currently account for 40/50% of GDP and 50/70% of household incomes. Wage itself has two sides, one statistical and quantifiable, the average annual salary, the other one more psychological with the socio-cultural perception of salaries.

The project is not intended to substitute for studies already deepened f. e. by the ILO for the previous decades (1995-2010), but to give historical depth to the wage issue looking back to the years 1950 to 1960 to assess the direction and the significance of changes. The problem is deliberately focused on the distinction "developed countries" / "emerging countries", knowing that some "emerging" (South Korea, Singapore) have become "advanced" over time and the list of "emerging" is not closed. The workshop will try to choose examples to be representative across the planet.

The questioning evolves around the convergence of emerging countries with developed countries over a long period (1950/60-2010). It includes the question of socialist economies during their active phase (1950-1990). It can be broken down into three components:

1. Between 1950 and 1980, wages in advanced economies have grown faster than those of the (future) emerging countries. The situation is reversed in the 1980s: wages in emerging countries are growing faster than those of developed countries. Is it simultaneity or causality? Does the rapid growth of some emerging countries cause the slowdown of the others?
2. The labor market is not comparable to currencies, commodities or information markets and is segmented by sociocultural and emotional effects of labor and national specificities (language, labor law, social insurance). In these circumstances, can we speak of global convergence or of regional segmentation in terms of salary evolution?
3. Is this approximate convergence of wage average levels accompanied by a marginal internal equalization of wages? Or by worsening disparities due either to an expansion of qualifications or to a differential sectorial productivity growth? Three examples of disparities will be put forward to answer the question: interstate inequality, inter-decile differences and gender wage gap

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Michel-Pierre Chelini (University of Artois (Fr) [France])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Dominique Barjot (University of Paris Sorbonne [France])
3. Patrick Belser (International Labour Office, Geneva [Switzerland])
4. Haroon Borhat (University of Cape Town [South Africa])
5. Leonid Borodkin (Moscow State University Lomonossov [Russian Federation])
6. Ewout Frankema (Wageningen and Utrecht University [Netherlands])
7. William Hausman (College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia [United States of America])
8. Pierre Lanthier (University of Quebec Trois Rivières [Canada])
9. Rekha Pande (Central University of Hyderabad [India])
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