United States

Global Shifts in the Employment Structure Project

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Technical Workshop | November 11, 2021
PREVIOUS EVIDENCE:

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The Care Economy? Gender, Economic Restructuring, and Job Polarization in the U.S. Labor Market

Rachel E. Dwyer

Low-Wage Job Growth, Polarization, and the Limits and Opportunities of the Service Economy

RACHEL E. DWYER AND ERIK OLIN WRIGHT
PREVIOUS EVIDENCE

Job Growth and Job Polarization in the United States and Europe, 1995-2007

Forthcoming in Enrique Fernandez-Macias, Donald Storrie, and John Hurley (Editors)

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Figure 1. United States Job Growth by Job Wage Quintile, 1995-2007
PREVIOUS EVIDENCE: JOB GROWTH ACROSS JOB WAGE QUINTILES, 1960S TO 2000S
PLANS FOR MY CONTRIBUTION:

DATA: Current Population Survey
TIME PERIOD: 1995 to 2020(?), divided by expansions and recessions, pending group decisions
JOB QUALITY: median wages and education
JOB RANKING: Quintiles and/or terciles
DECOMPOSE BY: Gender, Part-time/Full-time, other factors pending group decisions
CHALLENGES FOR COMPARABILITY:

TIME PERIOD: Common start and stop dates? Incorporate expansion and recession? Total annual net job change or compare quarters?

OCCUPATION: Will need to match to international classifications

SECTOR: Will need to match to international classifications

WAGES: Any issues?

DECOMPOSITION VARIABLES: Common definition of full and part-time?
THANK YOU

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**Main topics to be covered** | All participants should focus on: 1) previous evidence on the topic and the country (if any); 2) their plans: how to contribute to the project; and 3) main features and doubts: sources to be used; variables used to define the unit of analysis (jobs defined by occupations and sectors), variables used to rank jobs by their job quality level; variables used as breakdowns; periods analysed; limitations of the data and other particularities of the case.

**Organisation** | Each participant will have a maximum of 10 minutes to make a brief presentation on their plans and their work in the context of the project. The use of slides is recommended (but not mandatory), since this can help others to follow the presentations. Once all presentations are done an open debate will follow, in which participants will be able to raise more doubts and questions, generating an open debate that will last 30/ 40 minutes.
The aim of the project entitled ‘Global Shifts in the Employment Structure’ is to analyse recent changes in the employment structure for a selection of EU and non-EU countries, applying the methodology (or a similar one) developed for the European Jobs Monitor. This basically implies: 1) to use jobs (combinations of sectors and occupations) as units of analysis; 2) to rank these jobs by their job quality level (by using variables informing about wages or the educational attainment of workers) and group them into quintiles, terciles or deciles; and 3) to observe how the different groups of jobs have evolved over time.

The first part of the analysis serves to produce figures in which the patterns of structural change (job polarisation, upgrading, downgrading or any other variant) are drawn. Moreover, a second analysis must be carried out: to decompose the figures produced before by using socio-demographic variables such as the gender, the sectors, the nationality or the type of contract. This is useful to shed light on the drivers of the patterns of structural change described and analyse who has been hardest hit by job destruction in periods of crisis, who benefits more from job creation in the expansive phases of the economic cycle, etc.