

WORKSHOP 10

10. The Politics of Skill Formation: Institutions, Actors, and Change

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Despite the recent upsurge of interest in skill formation expressed by policy-makers, scholars of political science have long neglected the study of the politics behind systems of skill formation. The goal of the workshop is to close this research gap. With a special focus on post-secondary education (vocational training, higher education, and lifelong learning), the workshop pursues two goals: 1. To establish and develop a typology of skill regimes that is sensitive towards institutional complementarities between skill formation, labour markets, industrial relations and the welfare state. Building on established typologies like “Varieties of Capitalism”, “worlds of welfare capitalism” and “families of nations”, we would like to significantly enhance our understanding of skill regimes and their underlying institutions and political coalitions. 2. To understand and assess the degree of change that systems of skill formation are going through in the wake of de-industrialization, liberalization and internationalization of economies. In particular, we are interested in finding out whether processes of change in skill regimes are driven by endogenous (domestic politics) or exogenous (globalization, EU) forces and whether we can observe convergence or continued divergence across the OECD world. The workshop would like to contribute to the establishment of a particular political science perspective on education and skill formation. We welcome papers from different theoretical and empirical perspectives (qualitative case studies, historical analyses, quantitative micro and macro level studies).