

## WORKSHOP 22

### 22. The Political Economy of Labour Market Reforms in Advanced Capitalist Democracies

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Labour market reforms have been at the top of the policy agenda in advanced capitalist democracies since the 1980s. These countries have faced a number of structural pressures since the 1970s, including the slowdown in productivity growth, technological change, increased economic integration, particularly within the EU, de-industrialisation and tertiarisation. These pressures have called into question the effectiveness of economic and especially labour market policies and institutions, such as systems of collective wage bargaining and non-employment benefits, employment protection legislation and activation policies that were established during the 'Golden Era' in supporting good labour market performance. In spite of the largely common pressures, reform patterns have varied widely. The purpose of this workshop is to bring together researchers in political economy with a special interest in labour market reforms in order to discuss theoretical and empirical contributions on how domestic and international political, social and economic institutions, norms and discourse have been shaping the patterns of labour market reforms in the light of the above pressures since the 1980s, especially those relating to the rise of the service sector and economic integration (including EMU and growing trade flows in services). The existing literature on the political economy of reforms has been abundant with hypotheses on these questions and one of the main interests of this workshop is to take stock of what empirical evidence can teach us about the validity of these hypotheses and any useful extensions that may be drawn thereof.