

Scuola Normale Superiore
Classe di scienze politico-sociali, Firenze

Spring School

Political economy of production and labour

Florence, Palazzo Vegni, Via San Niccolò 93

16-20 March 2026

The aim of the Spring School is to address economic and social issues with a perspective that combines political economy and labour studies. The School will have an interdisciplinary approach presenting insights from Economics, International political economy, Labour sociology, Industrial relations, Gender studies and Political science.

The School will offer conceptual and empirical tools for understanding and researching economic and labour issues. Themes of the School will include the models of capitalism and the instability of the world economy, global production systems, the dynamics of employment, wages and inequality, gender issues, the transformations of work and labour in the digital age, new forms of labour activism and the policy alternatives for the economy, production and labour.

Organised over five days, each day will address a specific theme, with lectures by senior scholars and presentations by experts on case studies. PhD students may have the opportunity to present and discuss their research project with lecturers and participants.

The Summer School fills a gap in the landscape of university courses and research programmes based on disciplinary boundaries. The Summer School is designed for researchers, PhD and Master students, as well as for civil society professionals and policy makers. Participation is open in particular to PhD students in Economic, Sociology and Political science programmes, and to the PhD and MSc students of Scuola Normale Superiore. Participants are asked to read course material in advance, participate actively in discussions and laboratories during the School, and write a short essay on a topic to be agreed with the instructors. They will obtain a certificate of attendance. For PhD students, participation to the School could be recognised as a part of the requirements for their PhD programme.

The Summer School is organised at the Scuola Normale Superiore, in the centre of Florence. There is no registration fee, participants are asked to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Applicants will have to fill a registration form online and send a CV. A maximum of 50 participants will be admitted.

Programme

Monday 16 March 2026

10-11 Welcome and presentation of the School and of the participants

Political economy today

11-13

Political economy beyond economics

Mario Pianta, Scuola Normale Superiore

Afternoon

14-16

Political economy and social blocs

Bruno Amable, University of Geneva

16.30-18.30

Mechanisms of income inequality

Michele Raitano, Sapienza Università di Roma

Wealth inequality and policies

Salvatore Morelli, Università Roma Tre

Discussion led by

Gabriele Beretta, Scuola Normale Superiore

Gemma Gasseau, Scuola Normale Superiore

Tuesday 17 March

The world economy and labour

10-11.30

Economics from a South perspective

Jayati Ghosh, University of Massachusetts Amherst (online)

11.45-14

Technology, demand and employment

Marco Vivarelli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Labour markets and wages

Lia Pacelli, Università di Torino

Discussion led by

Donato Romano, Università di Firenze

Michele Bavaro, Scuola Normale Superiore

Afternoon

Industrial policy and politics

15-17

Industrial policy, sustainability and politics

Antonio Andreoni, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Discussion led by

Francesco Crespi, Università Roma Tre

Marco Stamegna, Scuola Normale Superiore

17.15-18.30

Data and methodologies

Speakers present information on databases, methodologies and research trajectories

Wednesday 18 March

Global production, global labour

9.30-11.30

Labour relations in the global economy

Sarosh Kuruvilla, Cornell University

11.45-13.30

Labour and comparative political economy

Vincenzo Maccarrone, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discussion led by

Arianna Tassinari, Università di Bologna

Afternoon

15-18

Frontline research: Labour and unions in global production systems

Dario Di Conzo, Scuola Normale Superiore

Nicolò Deiana, Scuola Normale Superiore

Clelia Li Vigni, Scuola Normale Superiore

Lorenzo Lodi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Romane Cauqui, Scuola Normale Superiore

Thursday 19 March

Labour studies today

10-12

Understanding power resources in labour relations

Guglielmo Meardi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discussion led by

Iraklis Dimitriadis, Scuola Normale Superiore

Lucia Amorosi, Università di Trento

Afternoon

13.15-15.30

Presentations by participants, thematic discussion groups, meetings with speakers

Gender and labour

16-18.30

The purple economy: gender, care and labour

İpek Ilkkaracan, Istanbul Technical University (online)

Discussion led by

Emanuela Lombardo, Scuola Normale Superiore

Giulia Giraudo, Scuola Normale Superiore

Friday 20 March

Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, Aula l'Altana, 5° piano

Labour in the digital age

10-12

Armanda Cetrulo, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa

Valeria Cirillo, Università di Bari

Dario Guarascio, Sapienza Università di Roma

Sarrah Kassem, Scuola Normale Superiore

12.15-14

Labour activism

Donatella Della Porta, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discussion led by

Lorenzo Cini, Università Federico II, Napoli

Alba Arenales Lopez, Scuola Normale Superiore

Afternoon

Policy challenges

15-16

The macro level: macroeconomic and labour policies

Francesco Saraceno, Sciences Po, Paris

16:30-18:30

The local level: economic and labour policies in the (small) global city of Florence
with local policy makers and civil society