

Scuola Normale Superiore  
Classe di scienze politico-sociali, Firenze

### Spring School

## Political economy of production and labour

Florence, Palazzo Vigni, 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 İlkkaracan, 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

Armando Cetrulo, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa  
Valeria Cirillo, Università di Bari  
Dario Guarascio, Sapienza Università di Roma  
Sarah 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