

Scuola Normale Superiore
Classe di scienze politico-sociali, Firenze

Spring School

Political economy of production and labour

Florence, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, Aula l'Altana,

16-20 March 2026

Final programme

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

Chair: Guglielmo Meardi, Scuola Normale Superiore

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

lunch

Afternoon

Chair: Mario Pianta, Scuola Normale Superiore

14-16

Political economy and social blocs

Bruno Amable, University of Geneva

break

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

Chair: Vincenzo Maccarrone, Scuola Normale Superiore

9.30-10.45

Economics from a Global South perspective

Jayati Ghosh, University of Massachusetts Amherst (online)

break

11-13.30

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

lunch

Afternoon

Chair: Mario Pianta, Scuola Normale Superiore

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

break

17.15-18.30

Data and methodologies

Chair: Martin Portos, (SNS)

Participants: Michele Bavaro (SNS), Marco Stamegna (SNS)

Speakers present information on databases, methodologies and research trajectories

Wednesday 18 March

Global Production, Global Labour

Chair: Guglielmo Meardi, Scuola Normale Superiore

9.30-11.15

Labour and comparative political economy

Vincenzo Maccarrone, Scuola Normale Superiore

break

11.30-13.30

Labour relations in the global economy

Sarosh Kuruvilla, Cornell University

Discussion led by

Arianna Tassinari, Università di Bologna

lunch

Afternoon

15-18

Labour and Unions in global production systems

15-16

Doing research in the interest of workers: challenges and limitations

Maurizio Atzeni, CEIL/CONICET, Argentina and Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile

16.15-18.15

Frontline research

Dario Di Conzo, Scuola Normale Superiore e Università di Napoli "L'Orientale".

Nicolò Deiana, Scuola Normale Superiore

Clelia Li Vigni, Scuola Normale Superiore

Lorenzo Lodi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Chair: Vincenzo Maccarrone, Scuola Normale Superiore

Thursday 19 March

Chair: Sarrah Kassem, Scuola Normale Superiore

10-12

Labour Studies Today

Understanding power resources in labour relations

Guglielmo Meardi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discussion led by

Iraklis Dimitriadis, Scuola Normale Superiore

Lucia Amorosi, Università di Trento

lunch

Afternoon

13.15-15.30

Presentations by participants, thematic discussion groups, meetings with speakers

WG 1: Production and Labour in Global Value Chains; Geography and Industrial Policy; International Political Economy

Coordinators: Michele Bavaro (SNS) Dario Di Conzo (SNS, Università di Napoli "L'Orientale".)

Nicolò Canal, *TU Delft*

Matilde Ciani, *Kiel Institute for the World Economy*

Iole De Simone, *Università di Ferrara*

Arsène Perrot, *Gran Sasso Science Institute*

Lina Sawaqed, *World Bank Group*

WG 2: Gender & Intersectionality, Social Reproduction in the Labour Market; Racial Capitalism; Eco-social issues and approaches

Coordinators: Iraklis Dimitriadis (SNS), Sarrah Kassem (SNS)

Amaleehah Aslam Forrester, *SAIS Bologna*

Alina Dambrosio Clementelli, *Università Statale di Milano*

Soeun Jeon, *Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University*

Giulia Magnano, *Università di Padova*

Shloka Murarka, *Berlin School of Economics*

Denise Padula, *Università di Roma La Sapienza*

WG 3: Comparative Political Economy; Macroeconomic Regimes and Policies; Twin Transitions; Labour Politics

Coordinators: Gemma Gasseau (SNS), Gabriele Beretta (SNS)

Stephen Gaffney, *ULB Bruxelles*

Kevin Gawora, *SOAS London*

Laura Leonelli, *Università Statale di Milano*

João Monteiro, *Universitat Autònoma Barcellona*

break

Gender and Labour

Chair: Stella Christou, Scuola Normale Superiore

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 Giraud, Scuola Normale Superiore

Friday 20 March

Chair: Michele Bavaro, Scuola Normale Superiore

New and old Labour Struggles

10-12

Labour in the digital age

Armanda Cetrulo, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa

Valeria Cirillo, Università di Bari

Dario Guarascio, Sapienza Università di Roma

Sarrah Kassem, Scuola Normale Superiore

lunch

Chair: Lorenzo Zamponi, Scuola Normale Superiore

13.15-15.15

Labour activism

Donatella Della Porta, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discussion led by

Lorenzo Cini, Università Federico II, Napoli

Alba Arenales Lopez, Scuola Normale Superiore

Afternoon

Chair: Guglielmo Meardi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Global and Local Policy challenges

15.30-16.30

The macro level: macroeconomic and labour policies

Francesco Saraceno, Sciences Po Paris

break

17-18:30

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

Dario Danti, City Councillor for the Municipality of Florence - Labour, University and Research

Nicola Sciclone, Director of IRPET (Regional Institute for Tuscany's Economic Planning)

Local trade unionists and others, tbc