

Call for Papers GOVPET PhD Workshop 2024, 14 and 15 March 2024

“Skill mismatches and shortages: Discourses, policies and politics between education, labour markets and migration”

The [GOVPET Leading House](#) is hosting a PhD Workshop on “Skill mismatches and shortages: Discourses, policies and politics between education, labour markets and migration”. This event aims at building a network of young scholars with an interest in the political, economic and social arguments related to changing skill requirements and provisions in the 21st century. Abstracts up to 500 words should be submitted to Scherwin Bajka: scherwinmichael.bajka@unisg.ch by **20 November 2023**.

Theme of the workshop:

Inspired by the GOVPET Leading House’s multi- and inter-disciplinary programme, this workshop reflects on the evolving contours of advanced economies in the 21st century due to demographic and technological change. In particular, we invite contributions investigating the ensuing phenomena of skill shortages, which usually relate to persistently unfilled vacancies, and skill mismatches, which may relate to over-skilling, horizontal (field-of-study) mismatch and skill obsolescence. Importantly, these phenomena have different implications and connotations at the firm, sectoral, national and supra-national level. Skill mismatches and shortages have implications for economic competitiveness as, for instance, European Union discourses have highlighted in the context of the knowledge economy.¹ They are underpinned by assumptions related to the need to secure economic growth even in times of ‘diminishing returns’.² In addition, skill mismatches or shortages have a social dimension as demonstrated by the electoral choices of the economic ‘losers’ of technological change.³ Often, the dimensions of economic competitiveness and social inclusion generate political trade-offs,⁴ which need to be adjudicated within institutionally path-dependent setups.⁵ Policies tackling this issue range from: (vocational) education policy, which provides different extents of employment-relevant skills while targeting socially excluded groups;⁶ labour market policies, which foster the activation of the required skills;⁷ and migration policy, which can foster the recognition of foreign qualifications needed locally.⁸ We invite contributions on these or related topics.

Workshop details

The workshop will be held in person at the University of St.Gallen on **14 and 15 March 2024**. In addition to panel sessions, there will be keynote lectures and a site visit to a training firm to learn about the practicalities of Vocational Education and Training. Participants will be expected to submit a draft paper before the workshop, present their research and read the submitted papers of colleagues. Papers will be discussed by GOVPET and invited senior faculty. Work in progress is welcome. GOVPET will cover accommodation and catering for participants. GOVPET will not cover travel costs.

¹ Marina Cino Pagliarello, *Ideas and European Education Policy, 1973–2020 Constructing the Europe of Knowledge?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).

² Lucio Baccaro, Mark Blyth, and Jonas Pontusson, *Diminishing Returns: The New Politics of Growth and Stagnation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

³ Jane Gingrich and Silja Häusermann, ‘The Decline of the Working-Class Vote, the Reconfiguration of the Welfare Support Coalition and Consequences for the Welfare State’, *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25.1 (2015), 50–75; Thomas Kurer, ‘The Declining Middle: Occupational Change, Social Status, and the Populist Right’, *Comparative Political Studies*, 53.10–11 (2020), 1789–1835.

⁴ Gina Di Maio, Lukas Graf, and Anna Wilson, ‘Torn between Economic Efficiency and Social Equality? Short-Track Apprenticeships in Denmark, Germany and Switzerland’, *European Educational Research Journal*, 18.6 (2019), 699–723.

⁵ Patrick Emmenegger and Lina Seitzl, ‘Collective Action, Business Cleavages and the Politics of Control: Segmentalism in the Swiss Skill Formation System’, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 57.3 (2019), 576–98; Martin B. Carstensen, Patrick Emmenegger, and Daniel Unterwiesing, ‘Setting the Terms of State Intervention: Employers, Unions and the Politics of Inclusiveness in Austrian and Danish Vocational Education Institutions’, *European Political Science Review*, 14.2 (2022), 245–62.

⁶ Marius R. Busemeyer and Christine Trampusch, *The Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012); Giuliano Bonoli and Patrick Emmenegger, *Collective Skill Formation in the Knowledge Economy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

⁷ Giuliano Bonoli, *The Origins of Active Social Policy: Labour Market and Childcare Policies in a Comparative Perspective* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013); Julian L. Garrizmann, Silja Häusermann, and Bruno Palier, *The World Politics of Social Investment (Volume I): Welfare States in the Knowledge Economy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

⁸ Georg Menz and Alexander Caviedes, *Labour Migration in Europe* (Springer, 2010); Annatina Aerne and Giuliano Bonoli, ‘Integration through Vocational Training. Promoting Refugees’ Access to Apprenticeships in a Collective Skill Formation System’, *Journal of Vocational Education & Training*, 2021, 1–20; Giuliano Bonoli and Ihsane Otmani, ‘Upskilling as Integration Policy: Making the Most of Refugees’ Human Capital in a Context of Skill Shortage’, *Social Policy & Administration*, 2022.