

Joint workshop of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo, L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris and Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB).

Do labour market inequalities erode support for democracy? Experiences and perspectives from France, Germany and Japan

October 6-7, 2017

EHESS, Paris

105 boulevard Raspail, Room 13 (6th floor)

Outline

For decades, many policymakers and international organisations such as OECD and the IMF, have emphasised the need of structural, especially labour market reforms to improve competitiveness. While many arguments of this debate are still present today (e.g. in the 2017 French election campaign), it is now widely accepted that growing social inequalities have contributed to an increase in income inequality and that rising inequalities in the labour market could be a major factor behind feelings of political marginalisation and alienation, vote abstention, support for extremist and/or anti-establishment parties and growing distrust in parties and democratic institutions.

However, the political consequences of growing inequalities may be less clear than is often assumed. While France, Germany and Japan share many similarities with regard to their dualistic labour market structures with a strong divide between workers in good and those in insecure jobs, they are displaying different levels of support for extremist and populist parties. Japan has currently even no populist movement to speak of, yet voter turnout has fallen to historically low levels and, according to surveys, young Japanese seem increasingly indifferent to the benefits of a democratic system.

This workshop seeks to investigate links between labour market inequalities and falling support for and trust in democracy by bringing together scholars and experts from France, Germany and Japan. The aim of the workshop is two-fold: First, it seeks to establish how labour market inequalities impact politics, political participation and support of democracy in each country. Second, it addresses how different policy and regulatory regimes may contribute to alleviating socioeconomic divides and to enabling strategies to counter political marginalisation, anti-mainstream sentiment and mistrust in democracy overall.

Programme
Friday, October 6

9:50 – 10:00	<p>Welcome address and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS-FFJ) - Werner PASCHA (JDZB) - Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ)
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Panel 1: Socioeconomics of labour market inequalities in France, Germany and Japan: Structure and consequences of inequality</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippe ASKENAZY (CNRS and ENS) - Hartmut SEIFERT (WSI) - Koji TAKAHASHI (JILPT) <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steffen HEINRICH (DIJ)
11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:50 – 13:00	<p>Discussion panel 1</p> <p>Commentator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shruti SINGH (OECD)
13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Panel 2: Labour market inequalities and falling support for democracy: How strong is the link? Which factors explain inter-country differences?</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruno AMABLE (University of Geneva) - Steffen HEINRICH (DIJ) - Toru SHINODA (Waseda University) <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS)
16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:20 – 17:20	<p>Discussion panel 2</p> <p>Commentator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toru YOSHIDA (Hokkaido University)

Programme
Saturday, October 7

9:30 – 12:30	<p>Panel 3: Can labour market policy and regulation restore trust in democracy?</p> <p>Panel discussion with all participants</p> <p>Introductory comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steffen HEINRICH (DIJ) - Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ) <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS)
11:00 (<i>Coffee break</i>)	
12:30 – 12:45	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS) - Werner PASCHA (JDZB) - Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ)

Speakers



Bruno Amable is Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva. After having worked on technological change, competitiveness and growth, he directed his research towards comparative capitalism, institutions, institutional complementarity, and hierarchy. His current research focuses on the political economy of institutional change and the causes and consequences of institutional change in modern developed economies.



Philippe Askenazy is a French economist, Senior Researcher at CNRS and researcher at the Paris School of Economics and ENS. He is also a columnist for the daily Le Monde. His main research interests focus on working conditions, labour policy and firm performances. They include theoretical and empirical studies on organizational and technical changes, occupational health and safety or the future of low-wage jobs.



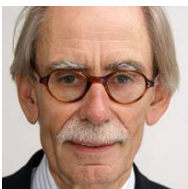
Steffen Heinrich is Senior Research Fellow and head of the social science section at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ). He is a political scientist with research interests in comparative welfare state research and the politics of structural labour market reforms. His current research focuses on the political implications of employment diversification in Japan, the politics of minimum wage reforms and the role of regulation as functional equivalent to traditional social policy.



Sébastien Lechevalier is Founding President of the FFJ and Professor at the EHESS. Being an expert on the Japanese economy, he was previously a visiting researcher at the Maison Franco-Japonaise in Tokyo, Hitotsubashi University and the University of Tokyo. He is a specialist of the Japanese economy and his research interests include inequalities, corporate diversity, and institutional change.



Werner Pascha is Professor of East Asian Economic Studies/Japan and Korea at the Mercator School of Management, and director of the Institute of East Asian at the University of Duisburg-Essen. He is Vice-President of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB). His research interests include the political economy of institutional change in Japan and Korea, and international economic relations of the region.



Hartmut Seifert is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Economic and Social Research, Hans Böckler Foundation (WSI, Düsseldorf). His main fields of research are labour market policy, working time policy, economic development and employment. He has published extensively in these areas and acts in an advisory role for a number of government bodies.



Toru Shinoda is Professor of comparative labour politics at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. His research focuses on labour history and labour politics.



Shruti Singh manages activities and the programme of work of the OECD Centre for Opportunity and Equality (COPE). She joined the OECD in 2007 as an economist, and has since then, led and co-authored several landmark reports in the area of disability, mental health and work policies. Shruti has also written extensively on a wide range of labour market policy issues including Active Labour Market Policies and Displaced Workers policies aimed at labour-market reintegration of the unemployed. Prior to joining the OECD, Shruti was a policy analyst at the Department for Work and Pensions in the United Kingdom where she was responsible for designing and analysing UK's key labour market policies.



Koji Takahashi is Vice Senior Researcher in Industrial Sociology at the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT). His latest research project focuses on "Polarization of Working Styles: Measures to Solve the Polarization and New Category of Regular Employees".



Franz Waldenberger is Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and professor for Japanese economy at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. His research interests include corporate governance, Japan's international economic relations and, most recently, fiscal and monetary policy.



Toru Yoshida is Professor of Political Science at Hokkaido University. His research focuses on comparative politics, including European and Japanese politics, especially on political leadership and political parties. He was previously director of research at JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), visiting professor at Sciences Po, and visiting scholar at Sciences Po/CEVIPOF. He is currently conducting research on the comparison of populist politics in Japan and in Europe.