

Topics in Comparative Politics I:

Globalization, Automation, and Labour

Fall 2021

Political Science 438H1/2321H

Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Claude T. Bissell Building 113

Professor Nicole Wu

3035 Sidney Smith Hall

nicolek.wu@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Mondays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment (in person or online)

This seminar examines the prominent sources of labour precarity and how workers — across different institutional settings — respond to these threats. The course covers phenomena such as workplace technological change/automation, international trade, and the economic rise of China, as well as their consequences, including growing inequality, the revival of the radical right, protectionism, and demand for redistributive policies.

Course requirements

30% of your course grade will come from two short papers (2-3 pages, double spaced). The short papers should be related to a week's readings. Graduate students are expected to extend an argument in the text or identify a new research question and present a proposed research design. These papers are for you to try out ideas for research projects. Undergraduate students *may* elect to critically review the week's readings instead. These papers are due on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. via email. You must submit one of the two papers by October 26.

50% of your course grade will be based on a written assignment (40%) (up to 12 pages for undergraduates and up to 15 pages for graduate students, double spaced) and an oral presentation to the class during either week 11 or week 12 (10%). The assignment can be a research proposal, complete paper, or some other format determined in consultation with the instructor. This exercise is designed to help students make progress on a project that is important to them. It is due on December 13 (5:00 p.m.).

The remaining 20% will be based on seminar participation. Absences due to sickness or other pandemic-related events (e.g., quarantine) will not be held against you, but I ask that you email me ahead of the seminar.

Required readings will be made available on Quercus or through the University library.

COVID-19 etiquette and safety measures

According to [U of T policy](#), face masks have to be worn in indoor spaces on campus. If you refuse to do so, you will be asked to leave for the protection of you and others. Again, absences due to illness will not be penalized.

Late penalty and re-marking policy

Late penalties for assignments are 3 percent per day, including weekends. Days will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g., 0.5 days late will be treated as 1 day late).

If you think you have been graded unfairly, you will have 72 hours to provide a written note to explain why a grade adjustment is warranted. A re-marking might result in a higher, the same, or a lower grade than what you have been initially awarded.

Inclusion and special accommodation

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach Accessibility Services (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) and/or me as soon as possible. Developed jointly by you and your accessibility advisor, a letter of accommodation maintains confidentiality about the nature of your disability but informs me about relevant accommodations needed to help you be successful in the course.

Religious observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during the academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please contact me to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Academic integrity

The University treats cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to the University's plagiarism detection tool website for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the University's plagiarism detection tool reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the University's plagiarism detection tool service are described on the company web site.

Copyright and privacy in instructional settings

If students wish to audio record, video record, photograph, or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, they must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. In the case of private use by students with accommodation needs, they must have registered for the accommodation through AccServ.

Land acknowledgement

For thousands of years, the land on which the University operates has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Seminar schedule and readings

Week 1 – Introduction (Sep 15)

Week 2 – Technological change I: Historical and economic perspective – Comparing technology in the past vs now vs future? (Sep 22)

Autor, David H. "Why are there still so many jobs? The history and future of workplace automation." *Journal of economic perspectives* 29, no. 3 (2015): 3-30. Download [here](#).

Frey, Carl Benedikt, and Michael A. Osborne. "The future of employment: How susceptible are jobs to computerisation?" *Technological forecasting and social change* 114 (2017): 254-280.

Frey, Carl Benedikt. *The Technology Trap*. Princeton University Press, 2019. Preface and Introduction.

Week 3 – Technological change II: Public Opinion and politics (Sep 29)

Gallego, Aina, Alexander Kuo, Dulce Manzano, and José Fernández-Albertos.

"Technological Risk and Policy Preferences." *Comparative Political Studies* (2021): 1-33.

Wu, Nicole. "Misattributed blame? Attitudes toward globalization in the age of automation." *Political Science Research and Methods* (2021): 1-18.

Gallego, Aina, Thomas Kurer, and Nikolas Bahati Scholl. "Neither Left-Behind nor Superstar: Ordinary Winners of Digitalization at the Ballot Box." *Journal of Politics* (2020).

Week 4 – Globalization I: Immigration (Oct 6)

Hainmueller, Jens, and Michael J. Hiscox. "Attitudes toward highly skilled and low-skilled immigration: Evidence from a survey experiment." *American political science review* 104, no. 1 (2010): 61-84.

Banting, Keith, and Stuart Soroka. "A Distinctive Culture? The Sources of Public Support for Immigration in Canada, 1980–2019." *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique* 53, no. 4 (2020): 821-838.

Solodoch, Omer. "Regaining control? The political impact of policy responses to refugee crises." *International Organization* 75, no. 3 (2021): 735-768.

Week 5 – Globalization II: Trade; Domestic actors and preferences (Oct 13)

Rogowski, Ronald. "Political cleavages and changing exposure to trade." *American Political Science Review* 81, no. 4 (1987): 1121-1137.

Naoui, Megumi, and Ikuo Kume. "Workers or consumers? A survey experiment on the duality of citizens' interests in the politics of trade." *Comparative Political Studies* 48, no. 10 (2015): 1293-1317.

Mansfield, Edward D., and Diana C. Mutz. "Support for free trade: Self-interest, sociotropic politics, and out-group anxiety." *International Organization* 63, no. 3 (2009): 425-457.

Week 6 – Globalization III: China Shock (Oct 20)

David, H., David Dorn, and Gordon H. Hanson. "The China syndrome: Local labor market effects of import competition in the United States." *American Economic Review* 103, no. 6 (2013): 2121-68.

Feenstra, Robert C., Hong Ma, and Yuan Xu. "US exports and employment." *Journal of International Economics* 120 (2019): 46-58.

Colantone, Italo, and Piero Stanig. "Global competition and Brexit." *American political science review* 112, no. 2 (2018): 201-218.

Week 7 – Political discontent and populism (Oct 27)

Broz, J. Lawrence, Jeffrey Frieden, and Stephen Weymouth. "Populism in place: the economic geography of the globalization backlash." *International Organization* 75, no. 2 (2021): 464-494.

Mutz, Diana C. "Status threat, not economic hardship, explains the 2016 presidential vote." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115, no. 19 (2018): E4330-E4339.

Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. "Trump and the populist authoritarian parties: the silent revolution in reverse." *Perspectives on Politics* 15, no. 2 (2017): 443-454.

Week 8 – Varieties of capitalism and the new politics of embedded liberalism (Nov 3)

Hall, Peter and David Soskice, "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism," in Hall & Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, Oxford UP, 2001, pp. 1-68.

Ruggie, John Gerard. 1982. "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order." *International Organization* 36(2): 379-415.

Week 9 – Crisis of embedded liberalism (and welfare)? (Nov 17)

Kim, Sung Eun, and Krzysztof J. Pelc. "The Politics of Trade Adjustment Versus Trade Protection." *Comparative Political Studies* (2020).

Mansfield, Edward D., and Nita Rudra. "Embedded Liberalism in the Digital Era." *International Organization* 75, no. 2 (2021): 558-585.

Gingrich, Jane. "Did state responses to automation matter for voters?" *Research & Politics* 6, no. 1 (2019): 1-9.

Week 10 – Labour resistance in autocracies [Case study: China] (Nov 24)

Lee, Ching Kwan. "Precarization or empowerment? Reflections on recent labor unrest in China." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 75, no. 2 (2016): 317-333.

Chen, Yiu Por Vincent, and Anita Chan. "Regular and agency workers: attitudes and resistance in Chinese auto joint ventures." *The China Quarterly* 233 (2018): 85-110.

Gallagher, Mary E. "Mobilizing the law in China: "Informed disenchantment" and the development of legal consciousness." *Law & Society Review* 40, no. 4 (2006): 783-816.

Week 11 – Student presentations (Dec 1)

No readings

Week 12 – Student presentations (Dec 8)

No readings