

## Programme of activities

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Activities comprise four seminars on the following topics:

- Employment in the gig economy: new forms of work and working conditions
- Gender segregation in the labour market
- School-to-work transition regimes and youth employment programs
- Innovation and social capital: the role of networks

These seminars combine discussions, to expose students to different concepts, theories and research approaches and settings, with data analysis activities, to gain a deeper understanding of analytical tools. A syllabus including a list of suggested readings will be handed out before each seminar.

Teaching language: English.

### **Seminar 1: Employment in the gig economy: new forms of work and working conditions**

This seminar will introduce students to the broad concept of the “gig economy” and the advantages and disadvantages of the non-standard forms of work that have emerged with it. The term is used to refer to almost everything, from independent contractors, freelancers, old-style temporary work, and on-call employees to the sharing economy – accommodation-sharing sites or peer-to-peer car-sharing company. But it seems mostly to describe various forms of self-employment and independent contracting facilitated by online platforms. In the gig economy, workers get paid for the “gigs” they do, such as a food delivery, a car journey or a software design. It is a labour market characterised by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work, as opposed to permanent jobs. Though we associate now the gig economy with Uber or Deliveroo, in the near future, many industries, especially those most likely to offer project-based work –like tech or creative industries– will be involved in the gig economy.

### **Seminar 2: Gender segregation in the labour market**

This seminar reviews main gender inequalities in the labour market (lower female labour supply, occupational segregation, gender pay gap, and prevalence of female temporary and part-time jobs). It discusses the theories that try to explain these inequalities –both from the demand and supply side– and explains the main tools and indexes used to measure them. The different typologies of welfare systems and gender and care regimes and its consequences in terms of gender access to the labour market will also be introduced, including, the main public policies to tackle gender segregation.

### **Seminar 3: School-to-work transition regimes and youth employment programs**

The deterioration of the labour market has been particularly severe under the last economic crisis, particularly for young people. Even though, at the European Union, the situation has improved since the end of the economic crisis, 7.2 million young Europeans (aged 15-29) were still unemployed in 2016. This seminar will examine recent trends in youth labour market, including the explanation of the concepts and a review of the EU statistics on: the youth unemployment rate, the youth unemployment ratio, the youth-to-adult ratio, the NEET rate, etc. The seminar will also cover the main features of different school-to-work transition systems, with a special emphasis on the Mediterranean regime. Finally, it will critically examine the recent educational and labour market reforms being promoted at the EU level, particularly the progress made in the implementation of the European Youth Guarantee (YG).

### **Seminar 4: Innovation and social capital: the role of networks**

This seminar focuses on the concept of social capital in relation to theories of innovation systems and local and regional development. The different dimensions (networks, values and quality of institutions) and typologies of social capital (bonding, bridging and linking) will be explained, together with the mechanisms through which social capital facilitates innovation by: reducing the costs of access to information and knowledge generation; decreasing uncertainty and opportunistic behaviours, and thus, reducing trading costs and control; increasing collective decision making and collective action; and facilitating access to external resources from other agents. The seminar will also include an overview of the use of social network analysis in the study of innovation networks.