



John DiNardo is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. His research focuses on applied econometrics, labour economics, health economics, political science and econometrics. He is currently one of the Editors of the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, the *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* and *Labor and Employment Relations*. He has widely published in top-ranked *International Economic Journals* such as: *Journal of Economic Literature*, *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*. He has (co)authored several books on Econometric Methods and Labour Market issues. Prior to his current position, he has been on the faculty at the University of California, Irvine, MIT and Princeton University. John DiNardo is a research fellow of NBER (Boston).



Francis Kramarz is the Head of the Research Department at CREST-INSEE (French Statistical Institute) and professor at Ecole Polytechnique. His main fields are labor economics and labor micro-econometrics. He is currently elected member of the Executive Committee of the European association of Labour Economists (EALE). He has widely published in top-ranked *International Economic Journals* such as: *Econometrica*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Review of Economic and Statistics*, and other journals. He has co-authored a chapter in the *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Francis Kramarz is a research fellow of NBER (Boston), CEPR (London) and of IZA (Bonn).



Stephen Machin is Professor of Economics at University College London, Director of the Centre for the Economics of Education and a Programme Director (of the Skills and Education research programme) at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. He is currently one of the Editors of the *Economic Journal*. Previously he has been visiting Professor at Harvard University (1993/4) and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2001/2). He is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, forthcoming President of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) and Member of the "Low Pay Commission" in the UK. He has widely published in top-ranked *International Economic Journals* such as: *Journal of Human Resources*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Economic Journal*, and other journals. He has co-authored a chapter in the *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Stephen Machin is a research fellow of NBER (Boston), CEPR (London) and of IZA (Bonn).



*60th year of the Economics Faculty
at the
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Labour Economics Workshop Minimum Wage: Lessons from Abroad

**Milan, Thursday 12th June 2008
Aula/Room Pio XI
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Largo A. Gemelli, 1 - 20123 Milano**

In recent years the average wages of Italian workers have been stagnating and there is evidence that, at least for some groups of workers, purchasing power decreased significantly. Empirical studies suggest that a combination of factors, common to most industrialised countries, contributed to the erosion of real wages, namely: International competition, labour market deregulation, declining union power and growing immigration flows are among the main explanations. Additionally, in Italy, slow productivity growth and the high incidence of labour taxation seem to have further reduced real wages, also casting some doubts on the ability of market forces to invert the trend. The effect on the welfare of workers, however, has not been evenly distributed in the labour market. Wage differentials between high-skill and low-skilled workers have grown such that those located at the bottom of the earnings distribution have suffered most, thus increasing the share of “working poor” and the incidence of social exclusion.

In the light of this scenario, it seems useful to address a number of questions. Can a statutory minimum wage alleviate the strain on marginal workers? Will the introduction of a minimum wage (negatively) affect employment? How can a national minimum wage be compatible with the marked Italian North-South differences? How should the minimum wage be designed to cover “atypical” workers, who are largely over-represented among the low paid?

The scopes of this Workshop are twofold. First, it intends to draw on the experience of different countries (U.S., U.K. and France) which have adopted the minimum wage as an important tool to regulate wage determination in the lower segment of the labour market. Three leading scholars who have contributed to the international economic literature with seminal studies on this topic will shed light on both the economic implications and the policy debate on wage minima in their own countries. Second, the Workshop aims at fostering the debate in Italy concerning wage issues and the reform of the structure of collective bargaining.

Programme

9.00 - 9.15

Registration of participants

9.15 - 10.00

Welcome address:

Alberto COVA

*Dean Faculty of Economics,
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

Introduction to the Workshop:

Claudio LUCIFORA

Economics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

10.00 - 11.00

John DINARDO

University of Michigan

Minimum wage in the U.S.

11.00 - 12.00

Stephen MACHIN

University College London

Minimum wage in the U.K.

12.00 - 13.00

Francis KRAMARZ

Insee-CREST

Minimum wage in France

13.00 - 14.30

Cocktail

Organizing Secretariat

Stefania Senno

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