

Workshop on Trade and Firm Labor Costs

Wednesday, June 29th 2016

While the sensitivity of trade to unit labor costs is relatively well documented at the macro-level, few studies address the issue at the firm-level, discarding the heterogeneous response of trading firms. The relation between labor costs and firm competitiveness is a dual one. If a high wage bill reduces cost competitiveness, it may also signal the high qualification of the labour force. Disentangling these two aspects of labor cost is a major question of empirical identification.

At a time where governments compete with each other to raise their national competitiveness, for instance by lowering taxes on wages, new evidence are needed to guide the design of policies and make competitiveness policies well purposed.

To this end, this workshop intends to gather recent research on firm-level studies on trade and labor costs. In particular, it aims at augmenting the evidence about the relation between firms' wage payroll and trade outcomes by exploiting the information from micro-level panel data.

Invited speakers:

Juan Carluccio (Banque de France)

Trade, Wages, and Collective Bargaining: Evidence from France (with D. Fougère and E. Gautier)

Catherine Fuss (National Bank of Belgium)

How do exporters react to changes in cost competitiveness? (with S. Decramer and J. Konings)

Submission:

To submit a paper, send a copy to laborcosts.workshop@sciencespo.fr before the 10th of April 2016. A selection committee composed of S. Guillou, T. Mayer, L. Nesta, T. Treibich and R. Sampognaro will select papers. The decisions will be sent to the authors by the end of April 2016.

Location:

SciencesPo CEVIPOF, 98, rue de l'Université - Paris 75007, salle G. Lavau.

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