



Call for Papers

Outsourcing: Impacts on the U.S. Workforce, In-Person Workshop

Organizers:

Eileen Appelbaum (CEPR), Brad Hershbein (Upjohn Institute), Susan Houseman (Upjohn Institute), and Dmitri Koustas (University of Chicago)

Date:

June 15–16, 2023

Submission deadline:

February 23, 2023

Location:

Chicago, IL (University of Chicago)

About the Workshop

Although the work arrangement of an employee working for a single employer is still the norm, there is rising attention and policy concern about the number of workers hired as independent contractors or through contract companies. Often such contracting arrangements are multi-layered. The dominance of franchising in some sectors and, more recently, the rise of “gig” platforms also illustrate how, as David Weil has put it, the nature of work has fissured. Despite these developments, we know relatively little of the prevalence of such arrangements in either levels or trends, and even less how these arrangements affect the wellbeing of different types of workers. The purpose of this workshop is to bring together leading and emerging scholars to discuss their recent empirical research related to issues of outsourcing, contract labor, and other types of fissuring. Both intermediate-stage and advanced work is welcome. Papers of interest might present new measurement approaches or evidence regarding the implications of these employment arrangements for workers. Research from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives is encouraged.

We gratefully acknowledge support for this workshop from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Submissions

To submit an online proposal, visit <https://www.upjohn.org/major-initiatives/outsourcing-impacts-us-workforce/2023workshop>. Proposals should include a title, list of authors and contact information, and an abstract of no more than 500 words. Proposal should be submitted by **February 23, 2023**. Notification of acceptances will be provided in mid-March. Contact outsourcing@upjohn.org with questions.

Schedule

The workshop will run from noon on Thursday, June 15 through 3 pm on Friday, June 16. The workshop on Thursday will start with a lunch, and afternoon sessions will be followed by a group dinner. Breakfast will be served before the start of Friday’s sessions. There will a keynote panel during lunch, followed by a final session. Paper sessions will include discussants and moderators.

Travel & Lodging

Program participants will be reimbursed for economy travel and lodging with workshop funds. A room block has been reserved within walking distance of the conference facilities at the University of Chicago Harris School. (Alternative arrangements exist for those with mobility concerns.)