Abstracts to the 2022 Gothenburg International Research Workshop on Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work for All (SDG 8)

25-26 August 2022

DAY 1, morning

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| Name | Session | Title of presentation | Abstract |
| Jan Steckel | Keynote | More than jobs: Policies for just energy transitions | Energy transitions away from fossil fuels will need to accelerate in the near future. For example, to stabilize global temperature increase to 1.5°C, the IPCC expects coal-based electricity generation to fall by 70% until 2030. The success of transition policies will critically hinge on their political and social acceptability. Policy interventions to trigger energy transitions must not interfere with economic growth prospects while, at the same time, manage the social and economic hardships that might arise for parts of the population. Just transition policies will need to include workers, but also vulnerable households and firms. Political economy factors will need to be carefully considered when designing energy transition policies. |
| Haileselassie Medhin | WS 1 | Transformations needed for a sustainable economic growth in Africa | Africa’s ‘growth miracle’ in the first two decades of the 21st century challenged a long-standing narrative of pessimism about the region and emboldened hope for the future. Despite the enthusiasm and strong commitment to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the strengthening of some market orientated economies in Africa, efforts to reduce the share of people living in extreme poverty has been uneven, and significant challenges remain in achieving the SDGs. And despite Africa’s negligible contribution to global warming, the is highly vulnerable to climate change risks. As a result, African countries are facing the uphill challenge of transforming their economies and improving human wellbeing while tackling the impact of climate change and evolving global economic dynamics. Over the past decade, governments and development agencies have been increasingly pursuing ‘green growth’, and many African countries have put forward ambitious policies and strategies for low-carbon development. This presentation highlights some of the perspectives and lessons on how African countries can chart on development pathways underpinned by green and resilient economic transformation. |
| Pham Khanh Nam | WS 4 | Vietnam in transition: the nexus of institutions, entrepreneurship and economic growth | A transition economy, characterized by institutional reforms, often has lower rate of entrepreneurial activities compared to most developed and developing countries and at the same time may gain stably high economic growth as in China or Vietnam or unstable growth as in the former Soviet Union. Do institution and entrepreneurship development lead to growth in transition economies and vice versa? This study employs GMM 3SLS approach for a regional level panel data in Vietnam to test the simultaneous effects between institutional factors, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in the context of a transition economy. We find a positive relationship between institutional factors and entrepreneurship. Moreover, we show there exists indirect effects of institutional factors on economic growth through entrepreneurship. The findings from Vietnam provide a better understanding of the nexus between institutions, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in a transition economy with broader implications in other transition economies at a similar level of development. |
| Nnaemeka Chukwuone | WS 1 | Sustainable inclusive growth in Nigeria | Nigeria developed and updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to align with the Paris agreement, facilitate greenhouse gas emission reduction, and limit the impact of climate change in the country. The NDC currently provides a high-level and strategic vision for tackling climate change in Nigeria. In the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Nigeria retained its pledge to reduce GHG emissions by 20% unconditionally and increased the conditional reduction target to 47% below business-as-usual by 2030. The country hopes to achieve this target through measures spanning the energy, agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) and waste sectors. Achieving the targets requires a robust information system if integrated solutions are to be found, implemented and monitored. Natural capital accounting (NCA) can provide such information. This paper, therefore, undertakes a situation analysis of the state of adoption of NCA in Nigeria, presents the findings of pilot greenhouse gas and land cover and ecosystem extent and mangroves accounts and also identifies the implications of NCA for achieving the NDC’s emission reduction targets in Nigeria. The paper also makes recommendations as to what stakeholders (government policymakers, private sector operators, academia, civil society and community-based organizations) need to do to ensure the integration of NCA principles to facilitate sustainable and inclusive growth in Nigeria. |
| Đào Kim Tùng,  International Institute of Social Studies  Erasmus University Rotterdam | WS 1 | Globalization and Sustainable Development: A Multi-dimensional Approach | This study, after doing a systematic review of the relationship between globalization and sustainable development, investigates the relationship between globalization and sustainable development by analyzing indicators which capture the multi-dimensional characteristics of the two concepts. The KOF index of globalization has been widely used in studies on globalization and is well constructed with large coverage while a new measure of development called the Sustainable Development Index follows the base formula of the Human Development Index but also captures the ecological dimension of sustainable development. These two indices give a way to measure globalization and sustainable development multidimensionally which helps investigate their relationship more comprehensively. Using a sample that includes 160 countries in a period from 1990 to 2018, this paper finds that there is consistent evidence of a quadratic relationship between general globalization and sustainable development as well as its two dimensions: development index and ecological impact index. Statistical evidence suggest that de facto globalization has more direct effects than de jure globalization. Further analyses of dimensional globalization show that both economic and social globalization also have quadratic relationships with sustainable development and its two dimensions. However, all the analyses of political globalization, regardless of its measures (overall, de facto, and de jure), fail to provide consistent and solid evidence of the existence and direction of a relationship between political globalization and sustainable development. In addition to the relationship of globalization and sustainable development, this study also takes the chance to briefly revisit the Kuznets hypothesis. Analysis results obtained in this study are in favored of a non-linear relationship between sustainable development and income yet contradicting to the ideas proposed by the Kuznets curves. Regression results suggest that income increasing would first enhance sustainable development instead but then would damage sustainable development in later phase. |

DAY 1, afternoon

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| Name/affiliation | Session | Title of presentation | Abstract |
| Kenneth Abrahamsson & Richard Ennals (chair), Annick Starren, Ulrika Harlin, Katrin Skagert, Frank Pot, Maria Albin | Roundtable | Sustainable Work in Europe | Make SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth green, or even greener. A book launch session. Sustainable work and sustainable work systems have been used as a policy concept and buzzword in working life and research for the last two decades, but the relation between work and environmental aspects has a much longer history in occupational health research. Sustainable work aims to illuminate and support a process to cope with present and future challenges at the workplace: it is not a product nor an end goal. A sustainable workplace reflects the reconciliation between health, the development of work environment for the employees, and a productive and value-creating mission for the enterprise or production organisation.  This presentation is based on the book Sustainable Work in Europe. Concepts, Conditions, Challenges. Abrahamsson, K.& Ennals, R. (2022) Peter Lang (forthcoming). The book is divided into three slightly overlapping sections. The first section focuses on the concept of sustainable work, its policy background and relation to job quality, inequalities, gender perspectives, older workers, and senior employment. The second section highlights sustainable workplace innovations, digitalisation, and the green transformation. The final section covers implementation and the channels and methods to connect research, policies, and good practices. That is done by highlighting the role of workplace innovations, social partners and the social dialogue, OSH research collaboration and dissemination and the importance of higher education to implement the SDGs. |
| Sophie BANASIAK, UoG | WS 2 | Greenfield union organising processes involving precarious workers | Labour markets on the international level are increasingly insecure and characterised by union decline. In this context, precarious work tends to be associated with lack of union protection and has strong negative effects on occupational health impairing workers’ wellbeing. Poor working conditions and sometimes violations of regulations tend further to be observed in “greenfield” workplaces, defined as workplaces without unions structures. Thus, global trends towards increasing precarity and union decline contradict overall Sustainable Development Goals, among which the promotion of inclusive and |
| Nikita Sangwan | WS 2 | Job Search Technology, Social Networks and Gender:  Experimental Evidence from Urban India | We implement a cluster RCT in which matched husband-wife pairs residing in urban,  low-income neighborhoods in Delhi, India, are offered registration on a hyper-local job  aggregator service that matches them to potential employers (T1). In another treatment  arm, both the husband-wife pair and the wife’s network are made the same offer (T2),  while no offer is made in the control group. We find that approximately one year after  the intervention the probability that the husband was working increased by 4.4 pp (4.6%)  along with a more than 55% increase in days and hours of work in T2. Consequently,  his monthly earnings more than doubled in this treatment arm. While the wife’s overall  work status did not change at either margin, the probability that she was self-employed  rose by 4.5 pp a year later in T2. The results highlight the role of social networks,  coupled with social norms, in effectuating gendered effects of labor market technology  in developing countries.  JEL classification: E24, J16  Keywords: job search, social networks, women’s labor supply, social norms |
| Anindo Bhattacharjee | WS 2 | Entrepreneurial resourcefulness for sustainable development (decent work and productivity) in the development of eldercare in India | The purpose was to identify entrepreneurial strategies, actions, and innovative measures to create resourcefulness for addressing constraints in the development of eldercare services. The study also analyzes and suggests potential antecedents and outcomes. A grounded theory approach was used. Interviews with senior managers were analyzed and four successful organizations were selected for deeper contextual analyses. Three major themes of entrepreneurial capacity to create resourcefulness for sustainable development were identified: (1) to overcome financial constraints and cost diseconomies, (2) to overcome human resource constraints, and (3) to bring about service innovation in existing market/industry constraints. These were creatively met by measures taken to overcome these constraints. The analysis also found limits of entrepreneurial resourcefulness. For instance, despite resourcefulness there are still challenges related to attracting and retaining care workers, value conflicts, and person-centered care. Factors of importance for resourcefulness have been explained through data from successful organizations in the emerging context of eldercare service – and compared to more developed contexts. A conceptual model is suggested to better understand the context for resourcefulness for sustainable development. (I think he will use this abstract). |
| Tomas Jordan, Dpt of Sociology and Work science, University of Gothenburg | WS 2 | The Inner Development Goals initiative: fostering capacities needed for working towards the SDGs | One concern regarding working towards the SDGs is that we know very much about the global sustainability challenges and what ought to happen, but we have not invested enough attention and effort into supporting the capacities that are needed in order to work more effectively with these very complex issues. The Inner Development Goals initiative ([innerdevelopmentgoals.org](http://innerdevelopmentgoals.org)) was formed in order to develop a shared framework describing what individual and collective skills and qualities are needed in addressing complex global challenges, and how to scaffold their development. The session will give a brief presentation of the IDG framework, comprising 23 skills and qualities, as well as ongoing work developing a "field toolkit”, an inventory of proven methods for supporting skill development. |

DAY 2 morning

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| Name/affiliation | Session | Title of presentation | Abstract |
| Maria Albin, KI | Keynote | Vision zero for work-related deaths - importance of a comprehensive collaborative approach | Work-related deaths were recently estimated in a joint ILO/WHO-project to be 1.88 million world-wide, based on 41 pairs of occupational risk factors and health outcomes (not including infectious diseases). Occupational deaths are predominantly (4 out of 5), caused by diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease. This global burden is unequally distributed in the workforce within and between nations, resulting in individual risks in clear conflict with the right to a safe and healthy work environment - one of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The covid-19 pandemic has provided further evidence of fatal gaps in occupational safety for essential workers.  Climate change adds to the burden through e.g. heat stress causing both deaths due to heat stroke, accidents and chronic kidney disease.  Commitment to a “Vision Zero” for work-related deaths is expressed in the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027, and adopted in many international and national policies. Structural changes in employment structure and relations, as well as climate change counteract these ambitions, as do institutional weaknesses in occupational safety and health. On a more practical level, quick follow-up of the target requires agreement on a modelled outcome since decades pass between exposure and death in e.g. occupational cancer.  These challenges imply that a successful implementation of “Vision Zero” requires an involvement of all sectors of society, in  - swift and adequate protective regulation as indicated by sound scientific evidence  - development of monitoring methods capturing the full range of working conditions, their change and impact on the individual and social burden of work-related deaths  - a deliberate use of public agencies and resources to promote the mission, e.g. in public procurement  - full recognition of decent work as a condition for social cohesion and sustainable development, and the fundamental and legitimate role of worker organizations to ensure this goal.  Currently these requirements are far from being met. Academia has a key role in providing the evidence on hazardous exposures, the methods to assess the failure or progress of Vision Zero, and assistance in identifying key criteria promoting decent work in public procurement.  In a wider perspective there is a need for a cohesive analysis of the factors which impair and promote the resilience of the workforce in relation to profound changes of the labour market, including the necessary transitions to clean energy and a circular economy. Several groups (women, young workers, older workers, migrant workers, workers with short education) are often classified as vulnerable, but this vulnerability is often associated with structural factors subject to societal decisions, which may thus also be reframed to reduce the vulnerability. Multidisciplinary initiatives providing such comprehensive evidence may form a basis for public awareness of how such measures could contribute to social and economic sustainability. |
| Hans Ekbrand | WS 3 | Unequal work compensation for serious occupational disorders: interactions between gender and migrant status of employed in Sweden | Decent and safe working conditions with low risks for serious occupational injuries and non-discrimination in the rights of compensation for serious disorders are of central policy concern, for a sustainable development (UN, SDG 8.8, Indicator 8.8.1 and 8.8.2). This has urged authorities to assess the within country. comparisons of gender and other socioeconomic factors for the incidence of occupational injuries Nevertheless, even with universal and comprehensive social protection, large inequalities of importance for the labor rights of compensation still prevail. Earlier national reports and studies have indicated the difference in compensation related to socioeconomic, gender *or* migrant labour, but seldom their more comprehensive interactions. This study identifies the probability of having an approved compensation for a serious occupational disorder in Sweden, by gender, gender-dominated branch *and* country of birth. The study used register-based data of all employed who had applied for compensation of lost income due to serious occupational disorder. The probability of getting compensation was modelled by sex, income, gender-distribution in the sector, migrant status and type of injury. The result showed that, even under control for type of injury, men have higher probability than women to get compensation, and persons born in the Nordic countries (including Sweden) have higher probabilities to get compensation than workers from the rest of EU and persons born in the MENA countries have even lower probability to get compensation. The result clearly point to the importance of more nuanced and continuous macro-level analysis of equal compensations, also including interactions of conditions. Critical analysis is needed about the “when-who-where-why-questions” behind incidence of occupational disorders and achievement of rights of compensation. Measures must be addressed at all levels from system and intersectional perspectives of decent work. |
| Kristina Hermansson | WS 3 | Inequalities in Communication on Occupational Injury Benefit | The paper addresses SDG 8:s target of achieving secure working environments for all workers. This relates directly to issues of equal compensation for serious occupational injuries. Despite overall improvements in work-related health and well-being, inequities in incidence of and compensation for occupational injuries regarding gender and socioeconomic conditions persist. To achieve workers compensation for serious occupational injuries is part of ´the Social Contract’ in a welfare country. But of all valid applications for compensation of a serious occupational disorder, 2010 – 2018, only 17% was approved (Dellve & Wallinder, 2019).  It is known that the possibilities of achieving occupational injury benefit vary in relation to the insured person’s access to relevant resources. However, the mechanism behind are not clear. Socioeconomic parameters are relevant to understand the communication between primarily insurers and applicants, and they in turn may affect the possibilities of obtaining approval when applying for insurance benefits. By qualitative text analysis, this study examines administration of Swedish public insurance for occupational injuries, focusing on power relations manifested in the communication. The paper draws on theoretical concepts by Bakhtin (addressivity), Bourdieu (symbolic capital) and Fraser (justice).  A random sample of personal files (n=139) from 2010-2108/2019 are studied. Findings show gaps and contradictions in how the insured person is addressed in communications letters; in what information is requested and how. Unreflected combinations of different discourses and means of addressivity, often make both the complex regulative and the specific information less intelligible. We argue that lacks in communication between case administrators, treating physicians, and insured persons contribute in making the process more dependent on insured persons’ access to capital in terms of, for example, education, knowledge of the insurance system, and a relevant social network. Hence, communication processes both reflect and reproduce unequal power relations. |
| Masilu Daniel Masekameni | WS 3 | Accommodating informal/vulnerable worker populations in SDG 8: a case study of artisanal gold miners | Since the 1800 the legacy of mineral exploitation has been the most prominent sustainer of several countries’ economies in Africa. The African mining vision of 2009 is to be transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development. Although, mineral exploitation is considered to be the most economical driver, several hazardous exposures occurs leading to the development of irreversible health conditions such as noise induced hearing loss and lung diseases.  In South Africa gold deposits in the Witwatersrand belt has been a significant economic driver for Gauteng Province. In the African mining vision 2009 it is envisaged that the introduction of artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) will lead to transparency and increased job recreation which will foster human development and sustainable livelihood. Mining exposure controls are often technical and expensive to initiate, operate and maintain. Despite ASM, may provide job opportunities it may also be a significant contributor in accelerating human diseases, especially amongst vulnerable groups such as women and children if regulatory enforcement tools are still lacking. Several, single exposure media studies have been carried out in the mining environments and surrounding.  It was found that the soils and roads were radioactive, the uranium level was 400 times higher than the allowable limit in water while both radon and uranium in air were 10 times above the prescribed limits as set by the international commission for radiation protection. Therefore, the occupational health division in the School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand have develop interest in collaborative projects to focus on cumulative and aggregative exposure modeling to construct dose exposure matrix for human health risk assessment. The outcome of this collaborative work will assist government in expediting regulatory framework to provide decent work in the ASM employment sector.  Keywords: ASM, Uranium, Radon, Mining vision strategy |
| Frank Pot | WS 3 | Monotonous and repetitive work – Some people are more unequal than others | Monotonous and repetitive work is an affront to human dignity. It also carries risks of stress and RSI. Over the years more than 20% of the working population in Europe carries out tasks of less than one minute. However, in the last decade there has been very little in-depth research into this kind of work. It is time to place repetitive work prominently on the agendas again. We can learn from programmes that were executed in Denmark and Belgium in the past. We can better enforce existing legislation. Criteria for ‘good work’ are available, as well as appropriate design theories. Policymakers and researchers emphasise the importance of job quality. They say nobody should be left behind in these times of transition. Let us not forget this special category of workers with monotonous and repetitive work. |

DAY 2, afternoon

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| Name/affiliation | Session | Title of presentation | Abstract |
| Subhrendu Pattanayak | Keynote | The Convenient Truth: Is Energy the Golden Thread for Sustainable Economic Development? | In this presentation, Prof Pattanayak considers the link between energy and sustainable development goals. He pursues this theme by attempting to answer three questions. First, is energy the golden thread for sustainable economic growth? Second, is it possible that one important channel is through empowering women and youth? Third, are there any examples of such pathways, especially in the energy poor parts of rural Africa and South Asia? If not, how might we study such questions? |
| Victoria Plutschak | WS 4 | Thinking through the connections of SDG 5, SDG 8 and SDG 13: A Review of gender, work and the low-carbon transition | A low-carbon transition (LCT) is a movement from carbon intensive practices, technologies and processes to less-carbon intensive approaches. These new technologies and approaches impact different economic sectors differently: some may see job losses, others job growth, some may see working environments improve, while other see working environments become more dangerous. Throughout, the economy is inherently gendered through who makes decisions, who does the labor, and who is impacted. Gender equality is not an inevitable outcome of a low-carbon transition, and so in order to promote SDG 5, we need to understand the likely impacts of these new low-carbon approaches on all genders.  This presentation will review what we know about how key LCT sectors - energy, forests, agriculture, transport, textiles manufacturing and care work - are expected to be impacted by climate change, how that will impact genders differently, and how these transitions can be made more inclusive. In exploring these dimensions, the review touches on issues relevant to SDG 8.4 on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, SDG 8.5 on achieving full employment for women and men, and SDG 8.8 on promoting safe working environments for all workers, and in particular women migrants. |
| Maria Del Pilar Lopez Uribe | WS 4 | Impact Evaluation of a National Housing Program with a gender perspective: Evidence from “Mi Casa Ya “ program in Colombia | In Colombia, there is a high housing deficit and access to public services, both in quantity and quality. In 2021, 31% of households were in a housing deficit, which particularly affects women, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups.  The objective of the program “Mi Casa Ya” is to reduce the housing deficit by facilitating the acquisition of urban social dwellings for lower-income households in the country. This study presents the results of the impact evaluation of Mi Casa Ya on beneficiary households´ welfare, including variables of income and poverty.  Using administrative databases and surveys of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, the results of the impact evaluation show that Mi Casa Ya reduces the barriers to access of dwelling in the target population, contributing to the reduction of the housing deficit through greater access to public services, and safer environments.  The program improves the labour market variables (employment, income, and formality) of the beneficiaries, especially women. Moreover, Mi Casa Ya increases household spending, and access to durable goods and reduces dependence on government subsidies. Hence, the program improves the life quality of its participants, reducing the probability of finding themselves in a condition of poverty and vulnerability. |
| Jorge Garcia | WS 1 | Pricing Carbon in the Tropics | In the tropics, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from land-use clearly dominate those from fossil fuels. This is particularly challenging from a policy perspective since land-based emissions are diffused and unregulated in most countries. Using recent experiences and policy insights from Colombia, this presentation discusses the challenges and opportunities of carbon pricing as a means to leverage market forces to reduce loss of tropical forests and overall emissions from land-use change. |
| Herbert Ntuli | WS 5 | Sustainable Tourism and Local Communities in South Africa: The Case of Kruger National Park | The United Nation World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism as “development of tourism activities with a suitable balance between the dimensions of environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects to guarantee its long-term sustainability”. Borrowed from the sustainability concept, these three important pillars should be attained simultaneously for tourism to be sustainable. For Africa, the journey towards sustainable tourism development has not been easy. Some of biggest constraints to achieving sustainable tourism goals are: i) lack of access to value chain opportunities by local communities; and ii) unequal distribution of resources and benefits among the stakeholders. This problem speaks directly to both economic and socio-cultural aspects of achieving sustainable tourism objectives. As a result, the African literature addressing sustainable tourism has focused on lack of or inadequate benefits flowing from the tourism sector to local communities. In this presentation, we use Kruger National Park as case studies to illustrate the extent to which sustainable tourism goals are being implemented in Southern Africa and the challenges to local community participation in the tourism industry in the context of a TFCA. We windup the analysis with conclusions and policy recommendations.  Key words: local communities, sustainable tourism, Southern Africa, GLTFCA |
| Richard Mulwa | WS 5 | Barriers and Opportunities for Development of Sustainable Tourism in Kenya’s Blue Economy Sector | The Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties adopted decision CP9/10.1 at the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP 9) held in Kenya in August 2018 and agreed to advance blue economy approaches in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as pathways for sustained incomes and economic benefits from natural blue capital including fisheries, tourism, oil and gas development, renewable energy, and other maritime activities. Further to COP 9, the Government of Kenya hosted the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) in November 2018. In the Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing the Global Sustainable Blue Economy, countries charted a new paradigm for an economically vibrant, socially inclusive and environmentally resilient blue economy. The recognition of tourism industry in blue economy development space was due to its significant contribution in the economic development of most economies in the world. In Kenya, the sector accounts for 8.2 % of total gross domestic product; while the ocean economy is approximated to account for only 4% of Kenya’s national total GDP; with coastal tourism and marine tourism accounting for 65% and 28% of ocean economy, respectively. The two (coastal and marine tourism) are widely regarded as some of the fastest-growing areas of contemporary tourism, but their development in Kenya has been spatially focused on the beach for much of the past decades. Another strand of the blue economy tourism is the inland component, often in Lakes and rivers. This has often been clustered with terrestrial tourism activities thus masking its contribution and growth. Both streams of blue economy tourism (coastal and marine; and inland) have potential for growth but face certain barriers such as conflicting regulations, limited human resource capacity, population pressure, pollution, raising water levels in lakes in the Rift Valley lakes for inland blue economy tourism etc. This paper highlights barriers and opportunities for growth and offers potential solutions for development of sustainable tourism in the blue economy. |