



**ChangingEmployment**




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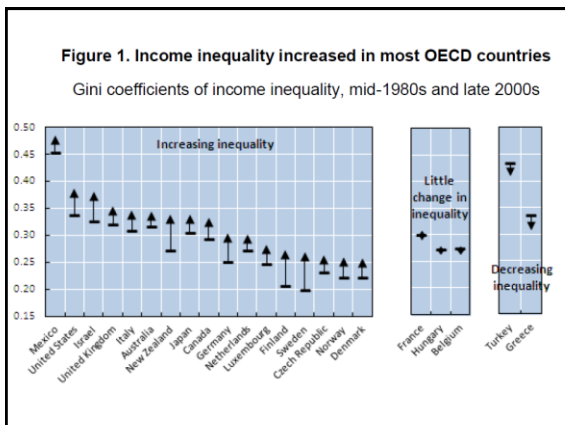
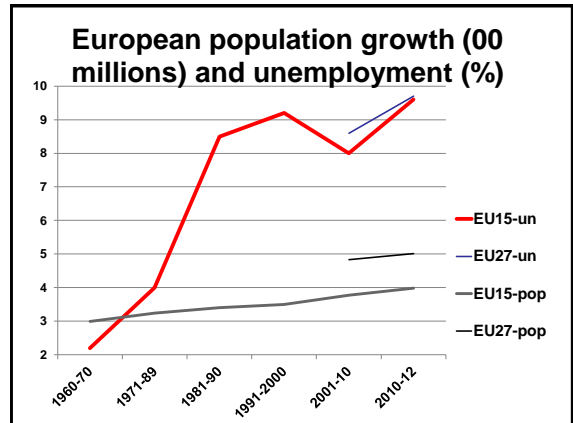
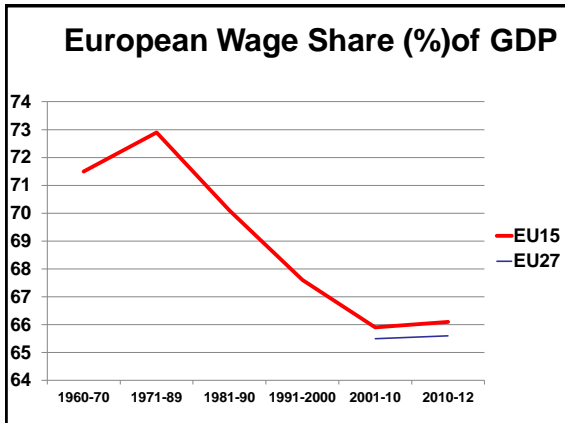
## International Working Lives Doctoral School 1997-2012

From Changing Work to  
ChangingEmployment

**Steve Jefferys**  
(From Keele University to University of North London to London Metropolitan University)

### Key changes in Western Europe's political economy, 1970s to 2010s

Issue	Contrast with the 1970s	Issue	Contrast with the 1970s
US power over international trade	Contested but now largely hegemonic	Right-wing and neo-liberal political ideology	Highly influential
Social democracy	Abandoning equality goals	Christian democracy	Abandoning interventionism
Economic policy aim	Control of inflation rather than maintenance of full employment	Welfare policy aim	Stimulate labour markets; increasingly selective and conditional
Taxation	More regressive, preference for taxes on consumption rather than income and capital	Keynes	Nearly forgotten
Economic growth	Slower	Technological change	Rapid
Unemployment	Higher and of longer duration	Establishment size	Smaller
Industrial Structure	Dominated by services rather than manufacturing	Occupational Structure	Low demand for unskilled male labour; more managers
Stock markets	More important, free flow of capital across national boundaries	Central banks	More independent of national governments
Public services	Increasingly contracted out	Public producers and utilities	Mainly privatised
MNCs	More European MNCs and more global in focus	Production	More international; outsourcing
National economy	More integrated into European and world markets	Employment	More feminised; less job security; relative decline of trade union influence over rules
Collectivism	Less	Social inequalities	Greater

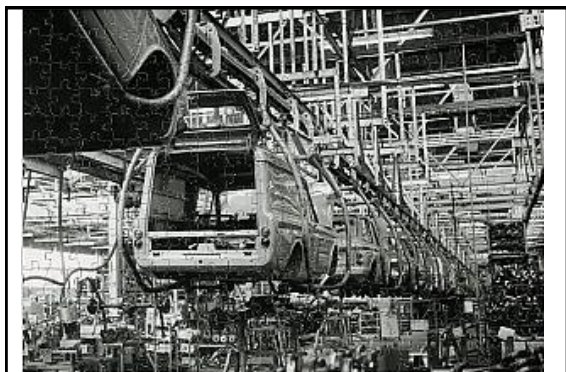




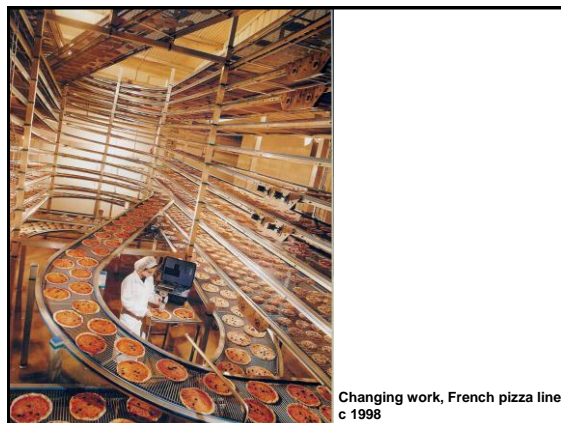
Singer Sewing Machine factory, Clydebank, nr Glasgow, c 1960. Steve 1968-1969. D



Chrysler (Rootes) Linwood, nr Glasgow, c 1970. Steve 1969-1972 . D



Chrysler Car Assembly Block (CAB), 1969. Steve 1969-1972. D



Changing work, French pizza line  
c 1998



Manchester Polytechnic  
Economics and Economic  
History Department (now  
Manchester Metropolitan  
University), c 1990.  
Steve 1986-1992  
Sold to developer...D?

## Who?

- 1995 – Evry University's Jean-Pierre Durand and Sylvie Contrepois and I began working on a joint project comparing changes in bank work in the UK and France
- 1995 – Bernt Schiller, Birger Simonson and Christer Thornqvist – labour historians at Gothenberg University visited Keele University and we agreed to have some form of joint collaboration involving doctoral students
- 1996 – Gothenberg organise a PhD workshop and invite Evry's Jean-Pierre and Frederick Mispelblom and myself as speakers. We agree to make it an annual rotating event, including workplace visits
- 2000 - We publish papers presented by doctoral students in 1997 and 1998 in an Edward Elgar jointly edited collection called *European Working Lives*.



Keele University (VC Building),  
Department of Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management, c 1990  
Steve 1992-2000

## Where?

- Every year from 1998 to 2012 we organised an international doctoral school with the host paying for accommodation and subsistence, and the visitors paying their own travel
- Venues moved between Keele, London (when Steve moved universities), Evry and Gothenberg (with one in Uppsala) with Bristol (University of West of England) and Glasgow (Strathclyde) being included after Paul Stewart joined the network



University of North  
London  
merged to become  
London  
Metropolitan University,  
2002,  
when WLRI was founded.  
C 2005  
Steve 2000-to date

Pioneering moves to  
privatisation in UK Higher  
Education

## Why?

- Shared ideological values – critical/left/Marxist social democrats – with commitment to challenge social inequality
- Shared beliefs in internationalism – learning through cross-language and multi-tradition exchanges
- Shared commitment to our students – to give them the opportunity to present papers and discuss ideas within a friendly, supportive but different environment