



## **The Chinese Labor Market in Transition**

### **Workshop**

Beijing, 18-19 November 2016

Throughout the past decade, the Chinese labor market has experienced an in-depth transition with the share of jobs not controlled by the state increasing considerably, whilst employment in agriculture has declined, against the backdrop of ongoing urbanization.

As China implements labor reforms and faces changes in demography and labor dynamics, a clear understanding of the labor market transition is essential.

The Renmin University of China in collaboration with UCW, the ILO and IZA is organizing a two-day workshop to analyze the Chinese labor market in a rigorous fashion.

The workshop will cover any aspect of labor market adjustment in China, with attention particularly devoted to the school -to-work transitions of young workers and to youth who early enter the labor market. Other important topics will be the labor market experience of migrant workers during the crisis and beyond, measurement issues related to informality and job quality, as well as the costs of worker displacement during the crisis and more generally during episodes of restructuring.

The workshop will also represent an occasion for an in-depth discussion of labor measurement issues arising from the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) Resolution. The Resolution, indeed, by distinguishing employment for wage or profit from economic activities for own consumption, introduced important updates to the previous international statistical standards for measuring the labor force.



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### Workshop

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**Organizers:** Hartmut Lehmann (University of Bologna and IZA), Furio Rosati (ILO UCW project and IZA) and Zhong Zhao (Renmin University and IZA)

### Program

*Paper presentation: 35 minutes, general discussion: 10 minutes.*

#### **Friday, November 18:**

09.00 – 09.15      **Registration with Coffee/Tea**

09.15 – 09.30      **Welcoming by**

**Weiguo Yang** (Dean SLHR Renmin University of China and IZA)

**Hartmut Lehmann** (Program Director IZA and University of Bologna)

**Furio C. Rosati** (ILO UCW project and IZA)

9.30 – 9.45      ***Opening Remarks***

**Tim de Meyer** (Director, ILO Beijing)

09:45 – 11.00

**Panel Session on Youth Employment in China –  
Measurement, Evidence and Policy Options**

Moderator: Furio C. Rosati (ILO UCW Project and IZA)

Participants:

**Hartmut Lehmann** (University of Bologna and IZA)

**Huang Qun** (ILO office Beijing)

**Jie Wu** (Director, National Statistical Bureau)

**Zhong Zhao** (Renmin University and IZA)

**Representative** (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee/Tea Break

11.30 – 13.00

**Paper Session 1: Demographic Dimensions of Participation  
and Employment in Urban China**

Chair: Zhong Zhao (Renmin University and IZA)

**Suqin Ge** (Virginia Tech), Xi Chen (Virginia Tech)

“Social Norms and Female Labor Force Participation in Urban China”

**Wenchao Jin** (University College London)

“Explaining Low Employment Rates among Older Urban Chinese”

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.00

**Paper Session 2: Migration**

Chair: Furio C. Rosati (ILO UCW project and IZA)

**Chuhong Wang** (University of Southampton), Jackline Wahba (University of Southampton and IZA)

“Sons or Daughters? Gender, Child Migration and Health of Parents Left Behind”

**Yang Huang** (Paris School of Economics), Hai-Anh Dang (Vietnam’s Academy of Social Sciences), Harris Selod (The World Bank)

“Children Left Behind in China: The Role of School Fees”

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee/Tea break

16.30 – 18.00

**Paper Session 3: Happiness and Hukou System**

Chair: Jeffrey Zax (University of Colorado Boulder)

**Fei Wang** (Renmin University), Richard A. Easterlin (University of Southern California and IZA), Shun Wang (KDI School of Public Policy and Management)

“Growth and Happiness in China, 1990-2015”

**Laixun Zhao** (Kobe University)

“A Simple Model of the Chinese Hukou System and Some Ongoing Reforms”

18.30

Dinner

**Saturday, November 19:**

9.00 – 10.30

**Paper Session 4: Human Capital Accumulation and Skills**

Chair: Hartmut Lehmann (University of Bologna, IZA and ICID)

**Lei Li** (University of Zurich), Hongbin Li (Tsinghua University and IZA), Hong Ma (University of Zurich)

“Skill-biased Imports and Demand for Skills in China”

**Jeffrey Zax** (University of Colorado Boulder)

“Provincial Valuations of Human Capital in Urban China, Interprovincial Inequality and the Implicit Value of Guangdong”

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee/Tea Break

11.00 – 12.30

**Paper Session 5: Education I**

Chair: Laixun Zhao (Kobe University)

**Qian Weng** (Renmin University of China), GAO Xia (Henan University of Economics and Law), and HE Haoran (Beijing Normal University)

“Family Size, Birth Order and Educational Attainment: Evidence from China”

**Feng Hu** (University of Science and Technology Beijing), Alex Eble (Columbia University)

“The Importance of Educational Credentials: Schooling Decisions and Returns in Modern China”

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

**Paper Session 6: Education II**

Chair: Suqin Ge (Virginia Tech)

**Furio C. Rosati** (ILO UCW project and IZA), Can Tang (Renmin University of China)

“Household Chores Specialization and School Drop-out”

**Liqiu Zhao** (Renmin University of China), Yun Xiao (National University of Singapore), Li Li (National University of Singapore)

“Education on the Cheap: The Long-run Effects of a Free Compulsory Education Reform in Rural China”

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/Tea break

16.00 – 17.30

**Paper Session 7: Parenting and Education**

Chair: Liqiu Zhao (Renmin University of China)

**Ang Sun** (Central University of Finance and Economics), Wei Huang (Harvard University and IZA), Xiaoyan Lei (Peking University and IZA)

“The Great Expectations: Impact of One-Child Policy on Education of Girls”

**Sean Sylvia** (Renmin University of China), Nele Warrinnier (University of Leuven), Renfu Luo (Peking University), Ai Yue (Shaanxi Normal University), Orazio Attanasio (University College London), Scott Rozelle (Stanford University)

From Quantity to Quality: Delivery a Home-based Parenting Intervention through China’s Family Planning Workers

17.30 – 17.40

**Concluding Remarks by Organizers**

18.30

Dinner