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RECONSIDERING THE HISTORY OF WORKING TIME (WESTERN EUROPE, XIV-XIX CENTURY)

Corine Maitte, Didier Terrier

This article re-examines the question of the duration of work over the long term, using multiple case studies to identify, in their diversity, the daily duration of work, the annual calendar of days actually worked, and the content of labour. This leads us to question the agreed-upon pattern of a three-stage evolution: a) an unmeasured, task-oriented working time before intensive industrialisation; b) a sharp increase linked to the first industrialisation; and c) a continuous decrease from the mid-19th century to the present day. If we look at the scale of individuals and the tasks to be performed, we see that the length of the working day has been the subject of many conflicts since the Middle Ages, and can already have amplitudes that are not exceeded during industrialisation. The number of days worked in a year is extremely varied, so much so that it is illusory to try to establish averages. Moreover, if, after the 1840s, a relative and uneven decline took place, it was almost always paired with an intensification of the productive effort, which frequently made the work itself more arduous.

Keywords: working time, Europe, 14th-19th centuries, industrialisation, intensification.

WAGES AND LIVING STANDARDS IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES

Andrea Caracausi, Luca Mocalelli

Starting from the most recent economic and social historiographical research, this article aims to analyse some of the aspects that we consider fundamental and essential for any research work on wages and living standards in the pre-industrial age. Thanks to the extensive literature on these topics, as well as to research conducted by the authors over the last 20 years, employment contracts, pay methods, wage formation, and the consequences regarding living standards and their calculation will be examined. The article adopts approaches that entail an in-depth analysis of historical sources and data, and, at the same time, contextualise pay within its economic and social scenario. Without these elements, it is actually not possible to have plausible estimates on living standards, even from a comparative perspective.

Keywords: wages, pay, living standards, preindustrial age, manufacturing industries.

HISTORY OF LABOUR, HISTORY OF WOMEN AND OF GENDER. HISTORIOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO PRE-INDUSTRIAL EUROPE

Beatrice Zucca Micheletto

The present essay provides a historiographical overview of the last two decades in relation to the relationships between economic history and the history of women's work, focusing on specific historiographical and thematic approaches that, often overlapping, have produced relevant research works and outcomes in terms of methodology and content, for the Italian economic history and more generally for similar historiographical traditions of western Europe. After a short introduction about some pioneer studies that established direct connections between, on the one hand, economic history, and, on the other, women's work and a gendered approach, the article adopts a transversal approach, and discusses a range of crucial issues on women, work, and economics in pre-industrial societies: women and guilds, economic and demographic growth and women's work, calculation of the FLFPR, "industrious revolution", and "little divergence". In addition, it explores recent contributions from feminist economics research to the topic of the family economy (productive and reproductive work, care work, and domestic work), and presents the GaW project and the "verb-oriented" methodology.

Keywords: women's work in the pre-industrial age, little divergence and women's work, FLFPR, guilds and women, "verb-oriented" research.

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY YEARS OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN ITALY. A RESEARCH AGENDA

Giulia Mancini

The goal of this paper is to take stock of where we stand in the reconstruction of the long-run dynamics of gender inequality in Italy, focusing on the post-unification period (from 1861 to the present, namely the last 160 years). This is accomplished in two ways: first, by proposing a list of indicators that can be thought of as the essential building blocks for such a reconstruction, and that can be assembled based on historical data. The emphasis is placed on quantification and comparability (both over time and across countries, or within areas of the country). Second, the paper assesses the available evidence within the economic history literature, and argues that the effort of building a quantitative economic history of Italian women is just at the beginning.

Keywords: gender inequality, Italy, capability approach, economic history, long run.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND MODERN PATTERNS OF WORK ORGANISATION

Alessandro Donadio, Donatella Strangio

By using a historical and economic, as well as managerial approach, the present essay aims to provide a reflection, through consolidated and new theories, starting from the Industrial Revolution until today, on how work and its organisation are changing due to the pandemic. In order to enrich the descriptive language itself, we will look for interpretative – even metaphorical – patterns that draw on multidisciplinary perspectives more capable of explaining the subject that expresses and reveals the object “organisation”, by continuously relating the use of increasingly evolved tools – the dwelling of hybrid spaces, the articulation of meaning – starting from an intentional approach that makes all these elements material and symbolic. In this case: organisation. We will first analyse the two anthropological dimensions that place human action within its development: space and time. We will then activate a further line of investigation that analyses the relationship between two widely interacting dimensions: technology and the “human issue”. We will therefore present an ontological scenario as regards the proper definition of contemporary organisation and its basic features. A scenario that also takes into account its concrete practicability in the economic and industrial, social, and anthropological context.

Keywords: innovation, work organisation, technology, modern and contemporary age.

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE ON SMART WORKING DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY AT INAPP

Tiziana Canal, Valentina Gualtieri, Rosita Zucaro

The paper analyses the results of the first survey carried out at INAPP on smart working during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency. The survey was carried out among INAPP employees in the spring of 2021 with the aim of detecting potentialities, critical issues, and lessons learnt during the first pandemic emergency period, and was structured according to some areas of analysis that characterise the enabling conditions of smart working: occupational health and quality of working life, and organisational and digital health. The results are positive and encouraging: INAPP employees successfully managed and appreciated greater flexibility and autonomy in their work, benefitted from a reduction in commuting time, and improved the levels of work-life balance. However, the risks associated with the porosity of the boundaries between work and family life, as well as those associated with social and professional isolation, deserve adequate attention.

Keywords: smart working during Covid-19, remote working, public research organisations.

ANALYSIS OF THE INPS 2021 SURVEY ON SMART WORKING

Paola Biasi, Luca Sommario

The paper analyses the results of the second survey on smart working, carried out by INPS among its staff members, from 5 November to 6 December 2021. The survey, implemented on a voluntary basis, was aimed at investigating the attitude of the staff towards smart working in relation to the various (professional and personal) dimensions involved in the adoption of smart working. Furthermore, a section of the essay analyses the relationship between smart working and the productivity of the institution, through an OLS model with fixed effects.

The survey outlines a high level of propensity of the staff towards smart working in hybrid mode. The following aspects are particularly appreciated: work-life balance, reduction of commuting time and cost, and increase in the amount of time to devote to family/personal sphere. The critical issues that emerged concern the sense of isolation, and the lack of separation between work and family life. The relationship between the productivity index and smart working is not statistically significant.

Keywords: smart working, public administration.

COVID-19-INDUCED CRISIS AND THE EFFECTS ON THE WELFARE STATE

Felice Roberto Pizzuti, Michele Raitano, Massimiliano Tancioni

This article summarises the main contents of the *2022 Report on the Welfare State* edited by F.R. Pizzuti, M. Raitano, and M. Tancioni. First, the socio-economic effects of the crisis that followed the Covid-19 pandemic are discussed, focusing on the impact exerted on the performance of economic systems, the policies that followed, the process of European construction, and economic theories themselves. The essential features of European and Italian welfare states are then discussed, offering some insights into the response and resilience of the system in the face of the economic and social crisis induced by the pandemic. Finally, the Italian pension system is discussed, and, after highlighting its main critical issues, some policy proposals are recalled.

Keywords: Covid-19, economic crisis, European Union, Italian economy, welfare state, pensions.

ECONOMIC POLICY AND STRUCTURE EVOLUTION: A EUROPEAN COMPARISON THROUGH SO-CALLED “SECTORAL ARCHIPELAGOS”

Paolo Maranzano, Anna Maria Variato, Roberto Romano

The present essay makes use of the taxonomy of the so-called “archipelagos”, reshaped starting from Istat’s proposed pattern, and investigates their evolution from 1995 to 2018 in Italy, comparing them with those of Germany, France, and Spain. Acknowledging the existence of such archipelagos (potentially) triggers the shaping of a theoretical model that, if duly developed, may have the same significance in conceptual terms as the Phillips curve in the past. Archipelagos are open and ever-changing sectoral clusters, where traditional vertical integration patterns (of the production process) take root, and (demand-driven) horizontal integration patterns become relevant. The classification of archipelagos, as a percentage of total value added, allows for the weighting of the (specialised) contribution of each and every archipelago by country.

Keywords: economic policy, structural change, economic archipelagos, innovation and technology.

THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF WAGE MODERATION IN ITALY, AND A PROPOSAL FOR THE STATE AS AN INNOVATOR OF FIRST RESORT

Guglielmo Forges Davanzati

This paper aims to evaluate the effects of wage moderation on growth in Italy. The author finds that wage moderation negatively affected both internal demand and the path of innovation, thus contributing to the long crisis of the Italian economy. The proposal of the State as an employer and as an innovator of first resort is discussed, with references to the Italian case.

Keywords: Italian economy, wages, State.