



Course introduction

The last few decades have witnessed an accelerated movement of goods, services, capital, people, technology, and culture across nation borders. This trend of globalization has profoundly changed our work and learning conditions and practices. Against this context, this course explores issues of work and learning in relation to the changing organization of work, shifting policies of migration, labour and training/education, contentious discourses of skill and the politics of recognition. Specifically, it traces the social, economic, cultural, and material relations that produce ruling and control, while delving into local learning activities and knowledge practices through which individuals and groups develop responses and resistances in the context of globalization and migration.

The course is driven by the following questions:

- 1) How has the organization of work and workplace changed as a result of globalization, migration and technological development;
- 2) What are the relationships between skill formation and new economy? And what are the dangers (exclusion and inequalities) associated with the discourse of new economy?
- 3) How is globalization of work (outsourced work and distributed work) managed and resisted through “learning”;
- 4) How politics of differences (gender, race, class and other axes of social differences) intersect with the politics of recognition in the context of migration?
- 5) How can we understand work and learning, including workplace learning practices, and the ways through which individuals negotiate identity, subjectivity, cultural habitus, social networks, and positionalities, in relation to Western hegemony as well as scattered hegemonies, communities and communities of practices?

And, depending on your interest, we may also address some of the topics below.

- 1) What are the lasting and emerging challenges associated with school to work transition?
- 2) What are the roles immigrants play in global knowledge transfer and translation;
- 3) How can we methodologically trace some of the social relations shaping our learning practices and work conditions today

Department of Educational Studies



EDST 575 (022) - Work and Learning

Hongxia Shan, PhD

SCRF 1023

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Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, you will have developed

- 1) Historical and grounded understanding of the changing organization of work and learning in the context of globalization;
- 2) Informed critique of new economy, global meritocracy and associated state policies such as innovation strategies, national skill framework etc.;
- 3) Critical appreciation of learning practices that people conduct at, and in relation to work;
- 4) Capacities to appreciate different theories and approach towards the study of work and learning.

Format of the course

This course will be delivered through seminars. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to examine your individual experiences as instantiation of the converging social, cultural and economic forces at large, and to be bold in your social imagination of disturbance and disruption.

Reading for this course

All readings will be available through Connect free of charge to the class.

Contact

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