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Work, Automation, and Economic Dignity

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Masthead and Editorial Statement

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Editorial: Knowledge in the Service of Human Possibility

This issue of Acta Eruditorum considers work, automation, and economic dignity as a field of shared responsibility. The journal approaches scholarship as more than the accumulation of findings: it is a disciplined public practice through which claims are tested, inherited assumptions are revised, and human beings enlarge their capacity to act wisely.

The papers are interdisciplinary conceptual syntheses. They do not claim to report original human-subjects experiments. Their contribution is integrative: each connects empirical literature, institutional analysis, ethics, and practical governance while identifying questions that remain open.

Contents

Automation and the Recomposition of Work

Acta Eruditorum Editorial Team

Abstract

This conceptual review examines task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation. It develops an integrated account of how evidence, institutions, values, and implementation interact, and it identifies practical conditions for responsible progress. The synthesis argues that technical capacity alone is insufficient: durable gains require legitimacy, equitable participation, transparent evaluation, and mechanisms for learning and correction. The paper concludes with implications for research, governance, and professional practice.

Keywords: systems thinking, governance, evidence, equity, institutional learning, human progress

Research Questions

1. How should task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation be conceptualized as a system?
2. Which institutional conditions support trustworthy and equitable outcomes?
3. What research and governance practices improve learning over time?

Introduction

This paper begins from a practical observation: the institutions surrounding task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation were largely designed for conditions that are rapidly changing.

In the case of task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation, narrow optimization can transfer costs across borders, generations, sectors, or social groups. A credible account must therefore trace consequences beyond the immediate site of intervention. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017).

Scientific evidence is indispensable, but evidence does not select goals by itself. Public reasoning is required to interpret uncertainty, compare legitimate values, and decide which risks may be imposed on whom.

The strongest strategies combine technical competence with institutional memory and local knowledge. They create explicit feedback loops, publish assumptions, and preserve the ability to revise action when conditions change. (Sen, 1999).

Conceptual Foundations

The analysis combines systems thinking with a capabilities approach, treating task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation as both a material arrangement and a field of human choice.

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Evidence and Method

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Analysis

Four interacting dynamics organize the evidence: scale, time, distribution, and feedback. Each changes how problems are seen and which interventions remain viable.

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Institutional Implications

Governance must connect authority with information and remedy. Institutions need the ability to coordinate at scale while remaining answerable to affected communities.

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Limitations and Future Research

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Conclusion

The future of task change, occupational transitions, productivity, bargaining power, and institutional adaptation will be shaped less by a single breakthrough than by the quality of the relationships built around knowledge, responsibility, and shared benefit.

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Economic Dignity in the Age of Algorithms

Acta Eruditorum Editorial Team

Abstract

This conceptual review examines worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness. It develops an integrated account of how evidence, institutions, values, and implementation interact, and it identifies practical conditions for responsible progress. The synthesis argues that technical capacity alone is insufficient: durable gains require legitimacy, equitable participation, transparent evaluation, and mechanisms for learning and correction. The paper concludes with implications for research, governance, and professional practice.

Keywords: systems thinking, governance, evidence, equity, institutional learning, human progress

Research Questions

4. How should worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness be conceptualized as a system?
5. Which institutional conditions support trustworthy and equitable outcomes?
6. What research and governance practices improve learning over time?

Introduction

This paper begins from a practical observation: the institutions surrounding worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness were largely designed for conditions that are rapidly changing.

In the case of worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness, narrow optimization can transfer costs across borders, generations, sectors, or social groups. A credible account must therefore trace consequences beyond the immediate site of intervention. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017).

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Conceptual Foundations

The analysis combines systems thinking with a capabilities approach, treating worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness as both a material arrangement and a field of human choice.

In the case of worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness, narrow optimization can transfer costs across borders, generations, sectors, or social groups. A credible account must therefore trace consequences beyond the immediate site of intervention. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017).

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Evidence and Method

The review uses interdisciplinary triangulation across scientific assessments, institutional reports, historical comparison, and normative scholarship relevant to worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness.

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Analysis

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Institutional Implications

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Limitations and Future Research

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Conclusion

The future of worker voice, surveillance, scheduling, evaluation, autonomy, and procedural fairness will be shaped less by a single breakthrough than by the quality of the relationships built around knowledge, responsibility, and shared benefit.

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The Care Economy as Essential Infrastructure

Acta Eruditorum Editorial Team

Abstract

This conceptual review examines paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction. It develops an integrated account of how evidence, institutions, values, and implementation interact, and it identifies practical conditions for responsible progress. The synthesis argues that technical capacity alone is insufficient: durable gains require legitimacy, equitable participation, transparent evaluation, and mechanisms for learning and correction. The paper concludes with implications for research, governance, and professional practice.

Keywords: systems thinking, governance, evidence, equity, institutional learning, human progress

Research Questions

7. How should paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction be conceptualized as a system?
8. Which institutional conditions support trustworthy and equitable outcomes?
9. What research and governance practices improve learning over time?

Introduction

This paper begins from a practical observation: the institutions surrounding paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction were largely designed for conditions that are rapidly changing.

In the case of paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction, narrow optimization can transfer costs across borders, generations, sectors, or social groups. A credible account must therefore trace consequences beyond the immediate site of intervention. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017).

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Conceptual Foundations

The analysis combines systems thinking with a capabilities approach, treating paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction as both a material arrangement and a field of human choice.

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Evidence and Method

The review uses interdisciplinary triangulation across scientific assessments, institutional reports, historical comparison, and normative scholarship relevant to paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction.

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Analysis

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Limitations and Future Research

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Conclusion

The future of paid and unpaid care, demographic change, labor standards, public investment, and social reproduction will be shaped less by a single breakthrough than by the quality of the relationships built around knowledge, responsibility, and shared benefit.

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Lifelong Learning Without Lifelong Precarity

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Abstract

This conceptual review examines adult education, portable benefits, career mobility, employer responsibility, and social insurance. It develops an integrated account of how evidence, institutions, values, and implementation interact, and it identifies practical conditions for responsible progress. The synthesis argues that technical capacity alone is insufficient: durable gains require legitimacy, equitable participation, transparent evaluation, and mechanisms for learning and correction. The paper concludes with implications for research, governance, and professional practice.

Keywords: systems thinking, governance, evidence, equity, institutional learning, human progress

Research Questions

10. How should adult education, portable benefits, career mobility, employer responsibility, and social insurance be conceptualized as a system?
11. Which institutional conditions support trustworthy and equitable outcomes?
12. What research and governance practices improve learning over time?

Introduction

This paper begins from a practical observation: the institutions surrounding adult education, portable benefits, career mobility, employer responsibility, and social insurance were largely designed for conditions that are rapidly changing.

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Issue Synthesis: A Program for Inquiry and Action

Across the four papers, work, automation, and economic dignity emerges as a problem of alignment. Knowledge must be credible, institutions capable, participation meaningful, and correction possible. None of these conditions substitutes for another.

Editorial Commitments

- Distinguish evidence from advocacy while acknowledging that values shape research questions.
- Report uncertainty, limitations, and distributional consequences.
- Protect open criticism, replication, and reasoned dissent.
- Design participation so affected communities can influence decisions before commitments become irreversible.
- Treat maintenance, stewardship, and learning as core elements of innovation.
- Evaluate progress through human capability and ecological durability, not output alone.

Publication and Ethical Disclosures

Peer-review status. This editorial-team special issue was developed under the journal's internal scholarly review and editorial quality process. Readers should evaluate arguments against the cited literature and subsequent evidence.

Funding and conflicts of interest. No external funding was received for this issue. The editorial team reports no financial conflict of interest related to the conclusions presented.

Research ethics and data availability. The papers are conceptual reviews and involved no human participants, animals, or newly collected datasets. All evidence discussed is drawn from cited public sources.

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