

October 2019

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## IN THIS DIGEST

Dear Colleagues,

We are relaunching Knowledge4Jobs as a partnership between the Jobs Group and the Labor & Skills Solutions Group in Social Protection & Jobs! Each month we will feature interesting articles that pique our interest on jobs, labor markets and migration.

**In this edition, we focus on how to prepare workers for change.** Technological progress, demographic changes, climate change and global integration are reshaping the world of work. In this process, a key policy challenge is to ensure that all workers are in a good position to take advantage of an expanded set of opportunities. As our featured publications show, this is not only about skills but also about ensuring that investments lead to new job opportunities accessible to the poor and vulnerable and that everyone has access to the risk management tools necessary to successfully navigate labor market transitions.

We will feature different guest editors each month. Stay tuned!

Your October guest editors,



Kevwe Pela  
Young Professional,  
Jobs Group

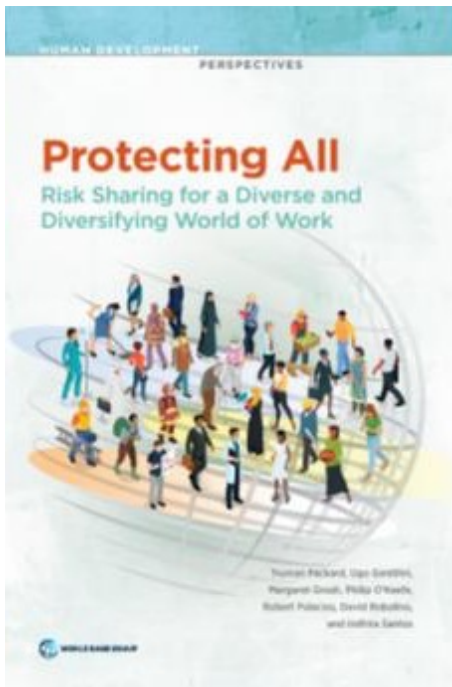


Indhira Santos  
Global Lead Labor & Skills,  
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# PREPARING WORKERS FOR CHANGE

## Protecting All : Risk Sharing for a Diverse and Diversifying World of Work

Packard, Gentilini, Grosh, O’Keefe, Palacios, Robalino & Santos | Book | September 2019



“Informal is normal” in labor markets in developing countries. And the recently launched white paper “Protecting All: Risk Sharing for a Diverse and Diversifying World of Work”, argues that this will continue to be the case in decades to come despite (and partly because) of ongoing changes in the nature of work. The most prominent characteristic of such work is that, for the most part, it is undertaken without work contracts and hence without the benefits of contributory social insurance schemes or mandatory worker protections. The white paper explores how the traditional model should adapt in order to serve the needs of everyone, regardless of how or where they work, and to be responsive and resilient in the face of economic, social, and demographic change.

### The Future of Work in Africa : Harnessing the Potential of Digital Technologies for All

Choi, Dutz & Usman | Book |

### Social Protection Systems and the Future of Work: Ensuring Social Security for Digital Platform Workers

Behrendt, Nguyen, & Rani | Journal Article |

August 2019

The success of digital technologies depends on having policies in place to ensure market competition, better human capital, better physical infrastructure, and stronger capacities to increase investments in social protection.

September 2019

How can social protection systems adapt to changing forms of work? This paper reviews what countries are doing to adapt their systems, including some interesting innovations.

### **Lifting the Floor? Economic Development, Social Protection and the Developing World's Poorest**

Margitic & Ravallion | Journal Article | June 2019

Higher mean incomes come with a higher floor. The bulk of this is direct rather than via public spending on social protection.

### **Minimum Wages and the Distribution of Family Incomes**

Arindrajit Dube | Journal Article | October 2019

Higher minimum wages increase family incomes at the bottom of the distribution. But reductions in public assistance can offset a significant share of these gains.

## ESSENTIAL READINGS

### **Under-Rewarded Efforts: The Elusive Quest for Prosperity in Mexico**

Santiago Levy Algazi | Book | May 2018

Why has an economy that has done so many things right failed to grow fast?

### **Work of the Past, Work of the Future**

David H. Autor | Journal Article | May 2019

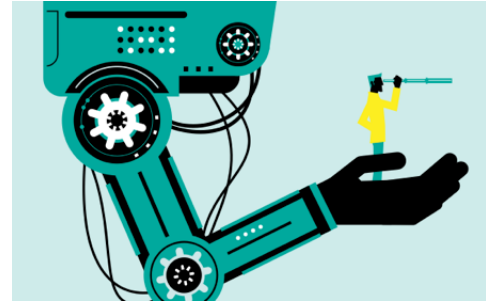
In the United States, work among the high-skilled is becoming increasingly skilled-intensive, but the opposite is true for the rest of the workforce.



### Work for a Brighter Future: Global Commission for the Future of Work

International Labour Organization |  
Book | 2019

Technological advances – artificial intelligence, automation and robotics – will create new jobs, but those who lose their jobs in this transition may be the least equipped to seize the new opportunities.



### Reimagining Social Protection

Michal Rutkowski |  
IMF Finance & Development magazine |  
December 2018

New social protection systems that do not rely on standard employment contracts are needed. Low-income countries can leapfrog into a more modern system.

### The Future of Social Protection: What Works for Non-Standard Workers?

Organisation for Economic Co-operation  
and Development (OECD) | Book |  
November 2018

With seven case studies, the report sheds light on different aspects of the social protection of non-standard workers.



# THE BROADER JOBS AGENDA

## FROM THE WORLD BANK

**What is Behind Labor  
Mobility Costs? :**

**Breaking Barriers : Toward  
Better Economic Opportunities**

### Evidence from Indonesia

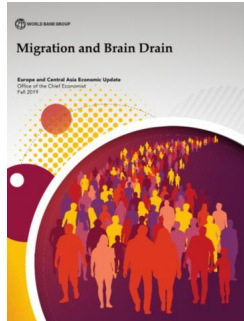
Cali, Hidayat & Hollweg | Working Paper | September 2019

This paper provides new evidence on factors that affect labor mobility by using labor data on Indonesia - a country with high estimated labor mobility costs.

### for Women in Malaysia

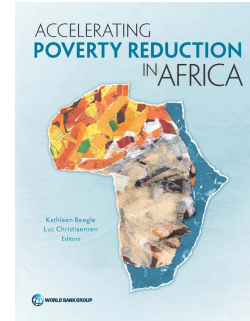
Schmillen, Tan, Abdur, Lnu & Weimann | Report | September 2019

Malaysia's female labor force participation rate has risen significantly in recent years but is still low compared to other countries in ASEAN.



**Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2019 : Migration and Brain Drain**  
World Bank | Book | September 2019

This update focuses on the design of policies on labor mobility and presents the trends, determinants, and impacts of low- and high-skilled labor.



**Accelerating Poverty Reduction in Africa**  
Beegle & Christiaensen | Book | October 2019

Taking very much a jobs perspective to the challenge of Africa's poverty reduction, the book focuses on the productivity and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable.

## FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### Evaluating the Impact of Urban Transit Infrastructure: Evidence from Bogotá's TransMilenio

Nick Tsivanidis | Working Paper | June 2019

Relative to valuing benefits based on time savings alone, welfare gains are 20-40% larger and there is little impact on inequality after accounting for reallocation and general equilibrium effects.

### Skills-Displacing Technological Change and Its Impact on Jobs: Challenging Technological Alarmism?

McGuinness, Pouliakas & Redmond | Working Paper | August 2019

Skills-displacing technological change (SDT) predominantly affects higher-skilled workers, reinforcing inequalities in upskilling opportunities within workplaces.

## What Works for Active Labor Market Policies?

Levy, Montané & Sartorio | Working Paper | July 2019

The paper reports the first systematic review of 102 Randomized Control Trials (RCT) interventions comprising a total of 652 estimated impacts.

## Productivity, Jobs, and Growth in Africa

Vijaya Ramachandran | Working Paper | August 2019

Why have numerous reforms in Africa not resulted in more formal sector jobs?

## Ethiopia's Path to Prosperity is Opening Up Under Abiy Ahmed

Financial Times | Blog | October 2019

Success in Ethiopia could ignite economic change through emulation equivalent to South Korea's influence on Asia in the 1970s.

## Are Small Farms Really more Productive than Large Farms?

Sanchez, Restuccia & Rud | Working Paper | September 2019

The findings emphasize the role of farm-specific distortions and returns to scale in traditional farm production.

### CONTRIBUTORS

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Want to share your recent publication or event? Email [kpela@worldbank.org](mailto:kpela@worldbank.org)



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