

# European and American Labor Markets in the Crisis

Paris  
6&7  
November 2014

International conference organized by DARES and CEPREMAP

Since its onset in 2007, the economic crisis has sorely tested the European and American labor markets. According to the countries, labor markets have reacted differently: in Germany, employment held up quite well; in the United-Kingdom, Denmark, France, and even more in the United States and Spain, job destructions were massive and quick. In the United States, the persistence of a high level of long-term unemployment rate questions about the performance of flexible labor markets compared to more protective ones.

Some categories of people, already vulnerable, have been especially affected by the crisis. Faced with these challenges, countries have adapted their institutions differently. The United States strengthened their safety nets by extending the duration of unemployment compensation while Spain introduced more flexibility in its employment legislation. As a consequence, implemented policies converged between countries.

The conference will be organized around four topics:

- the role of labor market institutions during the crisis;
- the differentiated impacts across workers;
- the specific features of the current crisis in terms of productivity, wages and unemployment;
- the reforms and adjustments of labor policies.

Experts from the academic community (France, Europe and North America) and representatives of French and foreign institutions will present their recent work.

Instantaneous French and English translation provided

Conference room "Pierre Laroque"  
Ministry of Health  
14 avenue Duquesne 75 007 Paris

**CEPREMAP**  
CENTRE POUR LA RECHERCHE ECONOMIQUE ET SES APPLICATIONS

**DARES**



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## Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November – Afternoon

1:30 p.m. Welcome coffee

2:00 p.m. **Opening speech** by **François REBSAMEN** – Minister of Labor, Employment, Vocational training and Social dialogue

Chairperson of the session: **Christel COLIN** (DARES)

2:30 p.m. **The role of the labor market institutions – USA and France**

- Minimum wage and employment in France by **Pierre CAHUC** (ENSAE-CREST, Ecole Polytechnique – Paris)
- Recession, recovery, and labor market flexibility in the United States, 2007-2013 by **John SCHMITT** (Center for Economic and Policy Research – Washington DC)

Discussant: **Agnès BENASSY-QUÉRÉ** (Paris School of Economics, Paris I University, Council of Economic Analysis –CAE)

Chairperson of the session: **Jean-Louis DAYAN** (Employment Research Center –CEE)

4:00 p.m. **The differentiated impacts of the crisis across workers**

- The implications of austerity for gender relations and gender equality: the cases of Spain and the UK by **Jill RUBERY** (Manchester University)
- Who suffers in recessions? An analysis of US labor markets in the great recession by **Hilary HOYNES** (University of California Berkeley, NBER)

Discussant: **Christine ERHEL** (Employment Research Center –CEE–, Paris I University)

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## Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November

8:30 a.m. Welcome coffee

9:00 a.m. **Ouverture** by **Françoise BOUYGARD** – Head of the DARES

Chairperson of the session: **Daniel COHEN** (CEPREMAP)

9:15 a.m. **Keynote session – Failing the future: the inability of labor markets, institutions, and policies to overcome the specters of inequality and joblessness**

by **Richard B. FREEMAN** (Harvard University, NBER)

**International perspective: Both more and better jobs are needed for an inclusive recovery from the crisis**

by **Stefano SCARPETTA** (OCDE)

Chairperson of the session: **Frédéric LERAIS** (Institute of Economic and Social Research –IRES)

11:00 a.m. **The role of the labor market institutions – Denmark and Germany**

- The Danish flexicurity labour market during the great recession by **Torben M. ANDERSEN** (Aarhus University, CEPR, IZA)

- The German labor market during the great recession and since the mid-1990s' by **Alexandra SPITZ-OENER** (Humboldt University of Berlin, Institute for Employment Research –IAB–, IZA Berlin)

Discussant: **Bernard GAZIER** (Paris I University)

12:30 p.m. *Lunch*

Chairperson of the session: **Jean-Luc TAVERNIER** (INSEE)

2:00 p.m. **The new inflation/output trade-off**

by **Robert J. GORDON** (Northwestern University)

**Labour productivity puzzles in Europe**

by **Philippe ASKENAZY** (Paris School of Economics)

Discussant: **Ekkehard ERNST** (International Labour Organisation)

Chairperson of the session: **Luc BEHAGHEL** (CEPREMAP)

3:30 p.m. **Reforms and adjustments of labor policies**

- Unemployment insurance and great recession in the US and in Europe by **Camille LANDAIS** (London School of Economics)

- The Spanish productivity puzzle in the great recession by **Laura HOSPIDO** (Bank of Spain, IZA)

Discussant: **Gilles SAINT-PAUL** (Paris School of Economics, Paris Sciences et Lettres –PSL)

5:00 p.m. **Closing speech** by **Françoise BOUYGARD**, head of the DARES, and **Daniel COHEN**, head of the CEPREMAP