

# Keeping pace with technological change: The role of capabilities and dynamism

CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL  
FORUM ON PRODUCTIVITY



**2019**

**Draft Agenda**

20-21 June

Sydney, Australia



**GLOBAL  
FORUM ON  
PRODUCTIVITY**



Australian Government  
The Treasury



Australian Government  
Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science



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**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity***“Keeping pace with technological change: The role of capabilities and dynamism”***20 – 21 June 2019  
Sydney, Australia****Draft Agenda*****Background***

While the pace of technological change has accelerated rapidly over the past five years, it has yet to be reflected in broad-based acceleration in productivity and wage growth. One conjecture is that economies are in a transition period where complementary investments in human capabilities – including new managerial practices and workforce skills – are required to support a more complete diffusion of technologies across firms. In this view, a closer focus on the types of policies required to exploit human talent and entrepreneurial initiative is warranted. But securing the transition to a higher wage path also requires competitive labour and product markets to incentivize technology adoption and ensure sufficient returns to investments in human capabilities. Accordingly, the conference will also explore the implications of changing patterns in economic and social dynamism – with respect to labour market fluidity, business dynamism, geographical and social mobility – for productivity, wages and public policy in an era of rapid technological change. Taking into account the growing importance of micro-data in policy analysis, emphasis would be placed on evidence based on such data, including longitudinal linked employer-employee data.

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For more information on the conference please visit our webpage: <https://bit.ly/2XsU85a>For any questions please contact [Productivity@oecd.org](mailto:Productivity@oecd.org)Twitter: [@OECD\\_Economy](https://twitter.com/OECD_Economy), [@OECD\\_Innovation](https://twitter.com/OECD_Innovation)

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**Day 1****Morning session****08:30-09:15** Registration and coffee**09:15-09:30** Welcome to Country - Uncle Ray Davison**09:30-10:00** Introduction

Heather Smith, Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS)

Meghan Quinn, Australian Treasury

Dirk Pilat, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD

**10:00-11:00** Setting the stage – day 1

Chair: Jenny Gordon, Nous Group

Chad Syverson, University of Chicago (40 minutes)

*“The Productivity J-Curve: How Intangibles Complement General Purpose Technologies”*

General discussion (15 minutes)

**11:00-11:30** Coffee break**11:30-13:00** Session 1: Technological change

What are the limiting factors for broader productivity growth? Why are gains from productivity growth distributed so unevenly?

Chair: Greg Kaplan, University of Chicago

Diego Comin, Dartmouth College (25 minutes)

*“On The Evolution of Productivity over the Medium term”* (TBC)

Eric Bartelsman, VU Amsterdam (25 minutes)

*“From Innovation to Productivity”*

Lead discussant Mark Cully, Australian DIIS (20 minutes)

General discussion (15 minutes)

**13:00-14:00** Lunch

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**Afternoon session****14:00-15:30 Session 2: Changing patterns of market power and contestability**

How has market power and concentration changed? Is there a common trend across OECD countries?

Chair: Patrick Lenain, Economics Department, OECD

Chiara Criscuolo, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD (25 minutes)

“Market power and concentration in North America and Europe”

John Asker, UCLA (25 minutes)

“Review of the evidence on market power, contestability and antitrust”

Lead discussant Chris Edmond, University of Melbourne (20 minutes)

General discussion (15 minutes)

**15:30-16:00 Coffee break****16:00-18:20 Session 3: Declining market dynamism: what role for policies?**

How and why has market dynamism changed? What are the implications for productivity and wages growth? Which policies can foster dynamism?

Chair: John Simon, Reserve Bank of Australia

Steve Davis, University of Chicago (40 minutes)

“*Dynamism Diminished: The Role of Housing Markets and Credit Conditions*”

Lead discussant Dan Andrews, Australian Treasury (20 minutes)

Q&A (15 min)

Policy Panel: Which policies can foster dynamism? (60 minutes, including general discussion)

Moderator: Dirk Pilat, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD

Panellists:

Michael Brennan, Australian Productivity Commission

Stefan Profit, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy

Pierre Therrien (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada)

Mary Veronica Tovšak Pleterški, European Commission

**19:30-21:30 Dinner (Speaker: Gary Banks)**

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**Day 2****Morning session****08:00-09:00 Breakfast****09:00-10:00 Setting the stage – day 2**

Chair: Jenny Wilkinson, Australian Parliamentary Budget Office

Erik Brynjolfsson, MIT (30 minutes)

*“What can Machine Learning Do and What Does It Mean for the Economy?”*

Lead discussant Kevin Fox, University of New South Wales (15 minutes)

*“AI and Technological Anxiety: Paranoia, or are the robots out to get us?”*

General discussion (10 minutes)

**10:00-11:30 Session 4: Human capabilities – managerial capital, organisational practices and mobility (Part A)**

How do complementary investments in human capabilities such as managerial capital and skills shape technology diffusion and productivity growth? Can policy play an enabling role?

Chair: Roy Green, University of Technology Sydney

Michela Giorcelli, UCLA (25 minutes)

*“Management and technology transfers” (provisional)*

Alonso Alfaro-Urena, Central Bank of Costa Rica (25 minutes)

*“The Effects of Joining Multinational Supply Chains”*

Lead discussant Giuseppe Nicoletti, Economics Department, OECD (20 minutes)

General discussion (15 minutes)

**11:30-12:00 Coffee break**

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**12:00-13:30 Session 5: Human capabilities– managerial capital, organisational practices and mobility (Part B)**

How can mobility contribute to capabilities and to technology diffusion? What is the role of migration? What are the obstacles to social or geographical mobility? How can policies increase migration?

Chair: Beth Webster, Swinburne University

Johanna Posch, Analysis Group, London, (25 minutes)

*“Wage Equalization and Regional Misallocation: Evidence from Italian and German Provinces”*

Steffen Viete, ZEW Mannheim (25 minutes)

*“Employee Autonomy and the Within-Firm Gender Wage Gap: The Case of Trust-Based Work Time”*

Lead discussant Dan Mawson, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom (20 minutes)

General discussion (15 minutes)

**13:30-15:00 Lunch****Afternoon session****15:00-16:50 Session 6: Hands on experience with linked employer-employee data and their potential for policy insights**

Understanding productivity developments requires meeting measurement challenges and matching different sources of data, such as employers and employees and utilising big data sources. Which questions can we hope to answer with better data?

Chair: David Gruen, Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Setting the Scene: Peter Gal, Economics Department, OECD (10 minutes)

Speakers from countries (20 minutes each):

Andrew Charlton, Alpha Beta, Australia

Ottavio Ricchi, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy

Emmanuel Dhyne, National Bank of Belgium

Lynda Sanderson, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand

General Discussion (15 minutes)

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**16:50-17:30    Wrap-up session and way forward**

Lessons learned from conference and previous conferences and way forward.

Chair: David Turvey, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS), Australia

Alain de Serres, Economics Department, OECD

Marie Bourke, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland

Christoph Menzel, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany