

RIETI-CEPR Symposium

Post-Brexit World Economy



講演3 Presentation 3 Handout

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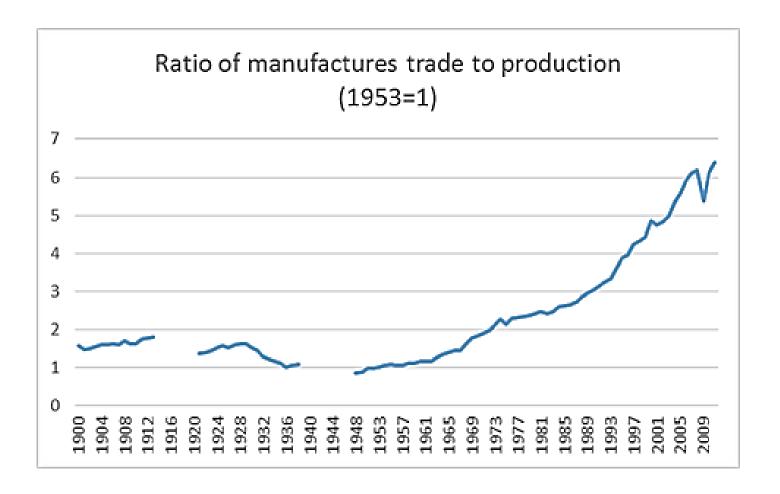
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A New Era of World Trade? The Role of Robots

Dalia Marin
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RIETI-CEPR Symposium Post-Brexit World Economy Tokio, March 2019

We live in an Era of Hyper-Globalization



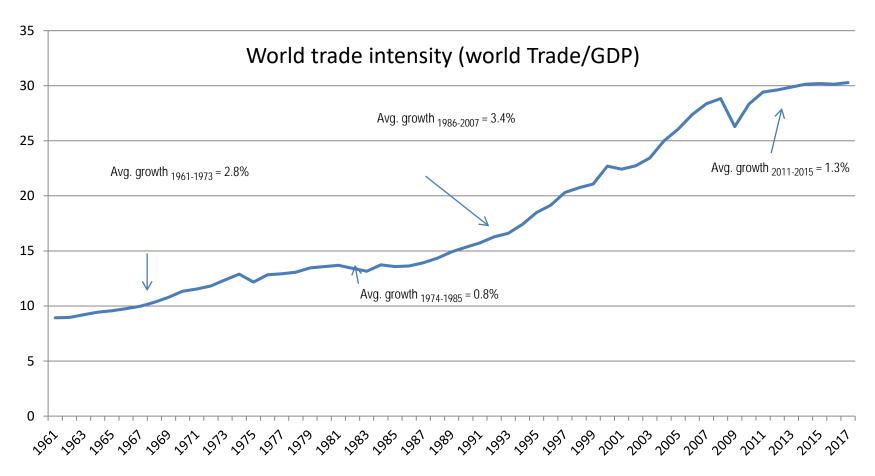
Three waves of Trade Liberalization

First Wave 1950-80: liberalization in industrialized countries

Second Wave 1980-2009: opening up of developing countries

Third Wave, Hyper-Globalization, since 1990: the rise of global value chains

But, since 2011 trade openness is stagnating...



Note: measured at market exchange rates in constant 2010 US dollars. World Trade is the average of world imports and exports

Source: OECD Economic Outlook Database 99, June 2016. © David Haugh, Economics Department, OECD

What Explains the Trade Slowdown?

The Trade Slowdown: Three Candidate Explanations

Reshoring, global value chains stop to grow

Slow investment growth

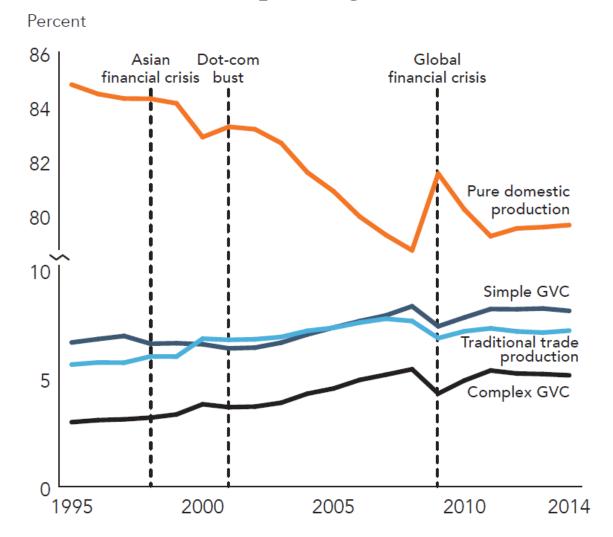
Inward-looking China, switch from exporting to consumption

In this presentation...

Focus on Global Value Chains.

Can we find Evidence for Reshoring?

Global Value Chains are expanding until the Financial Crisis



Source: University of International Business and Economics global value chain indexes derived from the 2016 World Input-Output Database.

Source: World Bank

Why have Global Value Chains stopped to grow?

Hypothesis 1

A revival of manufacturing in rich countries

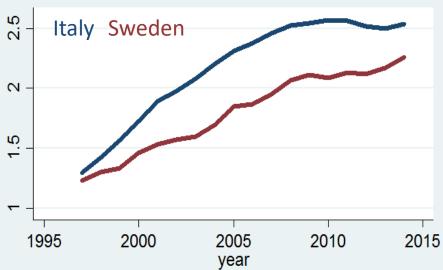
Robots will bring manufacturing back to the rich countries as machines are replacing workers and the cost of labor will not matter much.

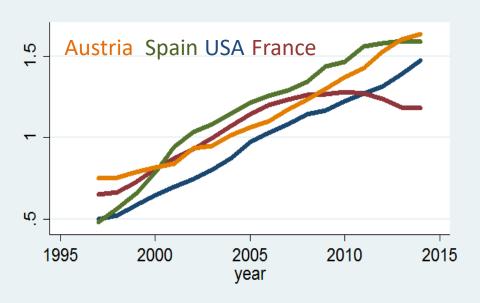
How important are Robots in Industrialized Countries?

Robots in Industrialized Countries

Robots per 1000 Employees

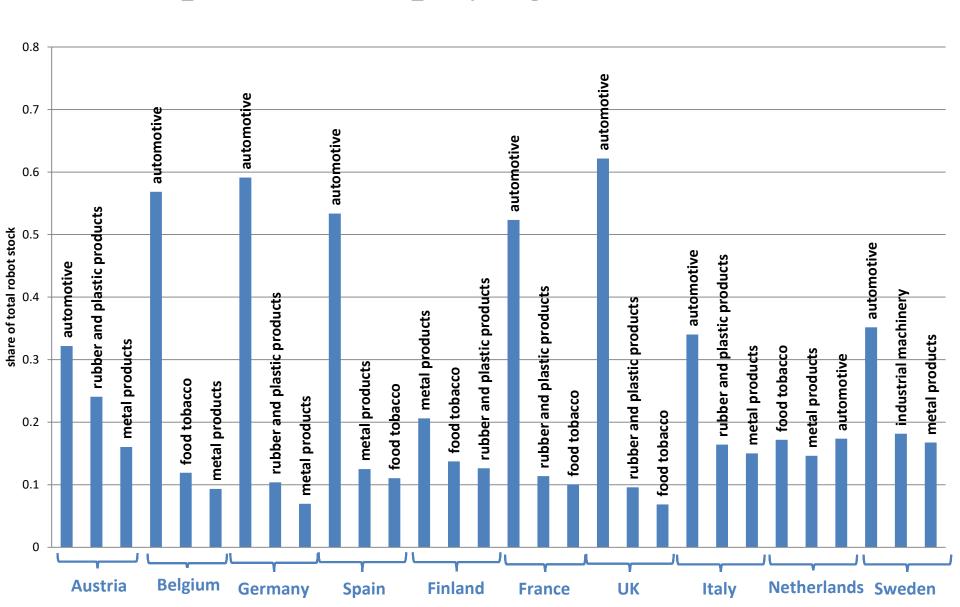




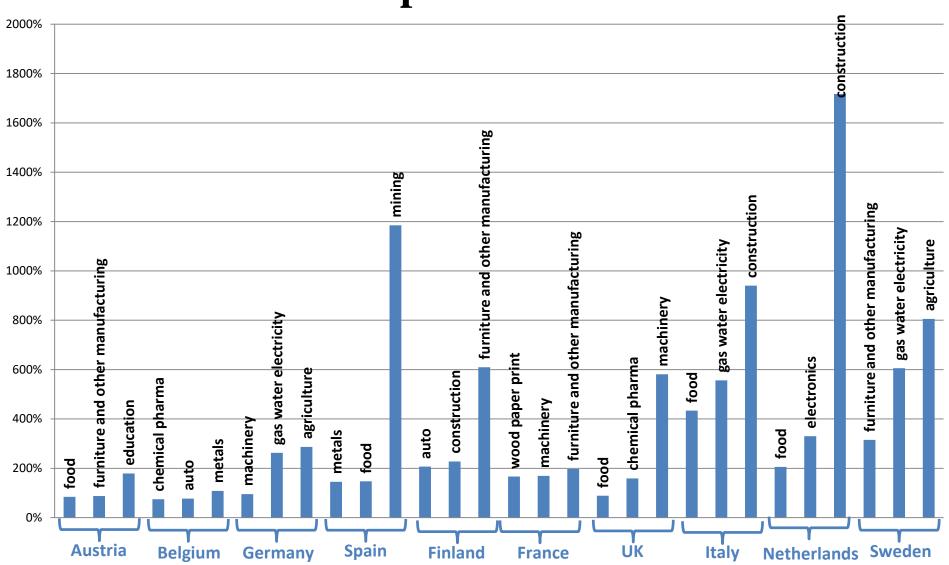


What explains the Difference across countries?

Top 3 robot employing sectors in 2014



Growth in robot intensity 2007-2014 top 3 sectors



^{*}robot intensity is measured as sectoral number of robots per thousand employees

Global Value Chains GVS

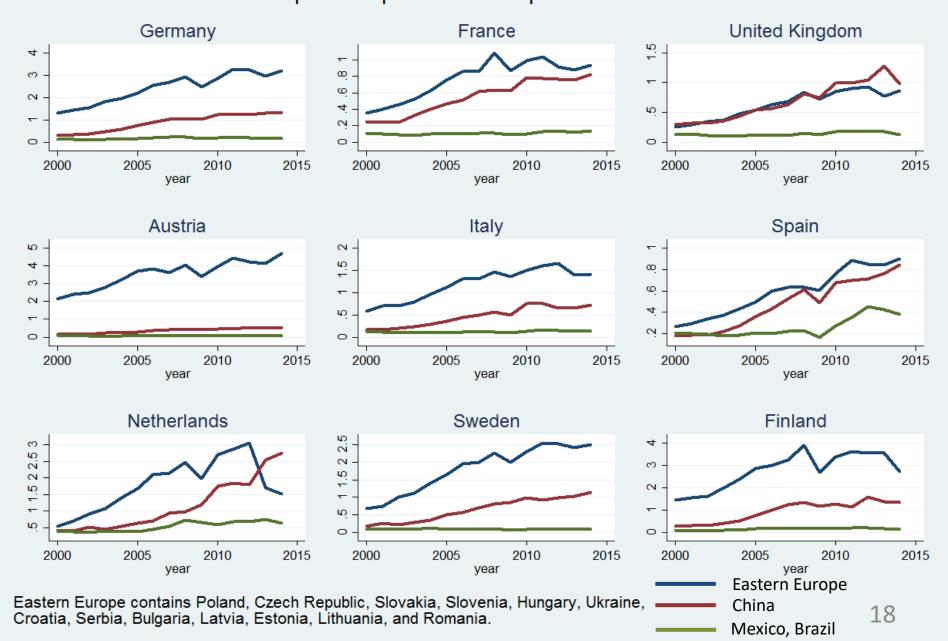
Measuring GVS

Imported Inputs in total inputs used by a sector

Idea: relocation to low wage countries leads to the import of inputs from this region (before produced at home)

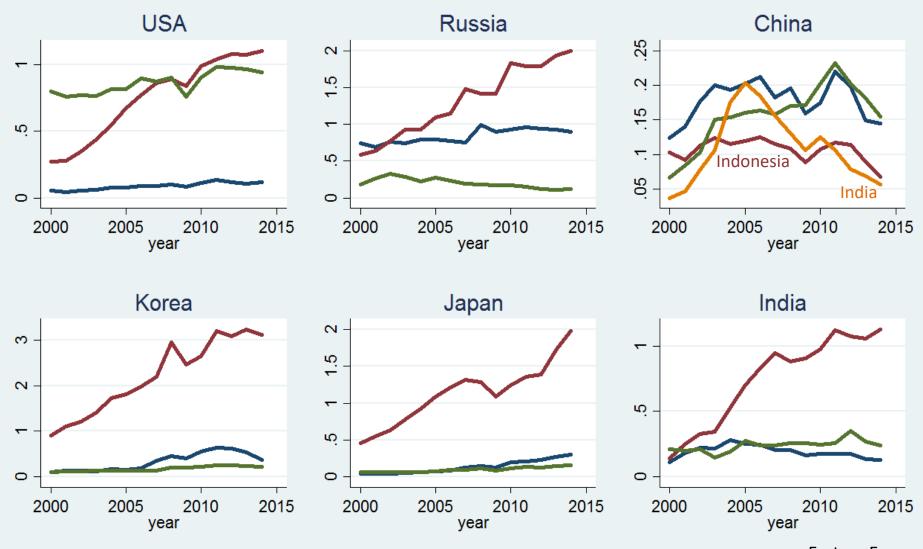
Offshoring increases the import of inputs Reshoring lowers the import of inputs

Offshoring to Low Wage Countries Imported Inputs in Total Inputs in Percent



Offshoring to Low Wage Countries

Imported Inputs in Total Inputs in Percent



Eastern Europe contains Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Ukraine, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Romania.

Eastern EuropeChinaMexico, Brazil

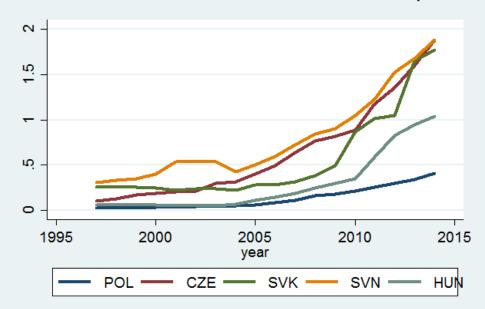
Question

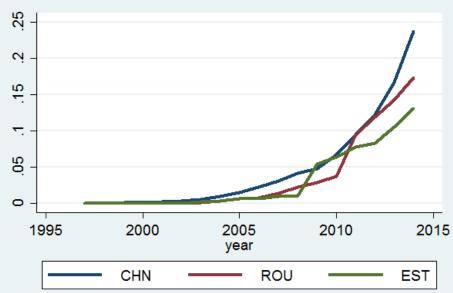
Industrialized countries have continued to offshore to low wage countries in spite of rising wages.

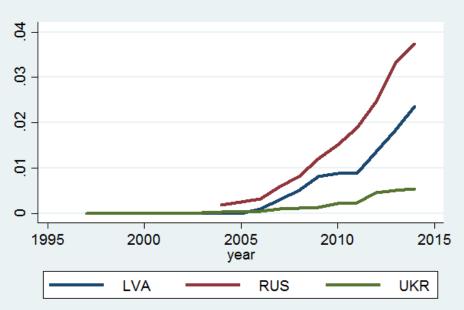
Why?

Robots in Eastern Europe and China

Robots per 1000 Employees







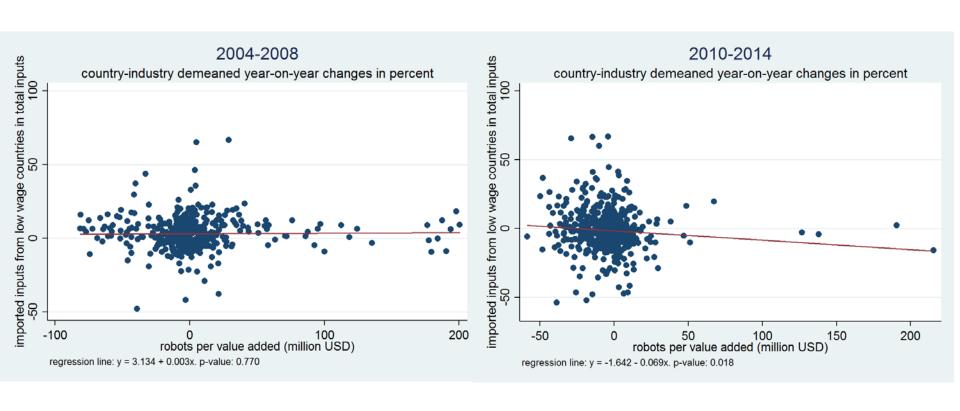
Findings

Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Slovakia have more robots per 1000 employees than France, Spain, Austria, USA.

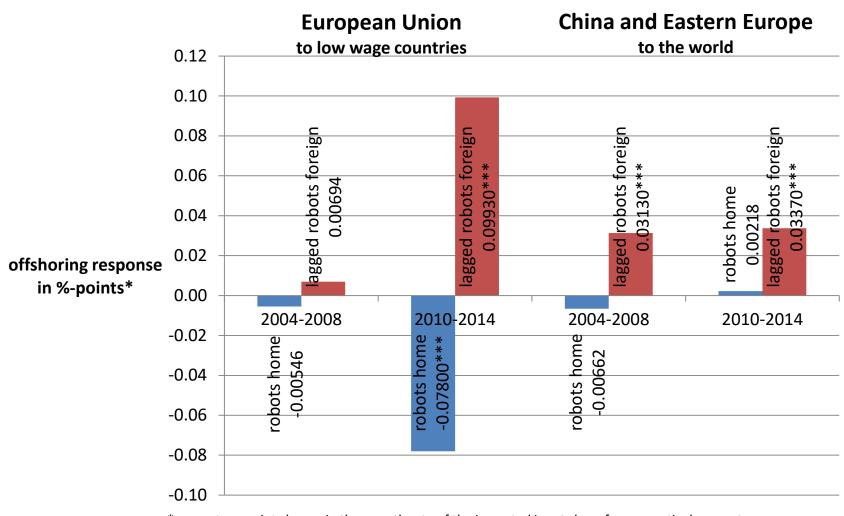
This way, they remain attractive as a location for global value chains in spite of rising wages (they have successfully escaped the middle income trap).

Robots and Global Value Chains

Robots and Global Value Chains: what is the relationship?



Reshoring emerges after the Financial Crisis



^{*}percentage point change in the growth rate of the imported input share from a particular country in percent of total inputs in response to a 1%-point increase in the growth rate of robots per 1000 employees.

Reshoring is real...

Is this good news for labor markets in rich countries?

Hypothesis 2:

Intelligent machines will **replace** smart people

rather than

increase the demand for skills (capital bias rather than skill bias technical change)

Some Examples:

- Narrative Science, EMMA, robo-advisers replace journalists and financial analyst
- Legal software searches for precedents in the law, potentially replaces lawers
- Medical software which diagnoses deseases, potentially replaces medical doctors
- Online courses, Udacity, MOOC potentially replaces professors

Skill-biased Technical Change

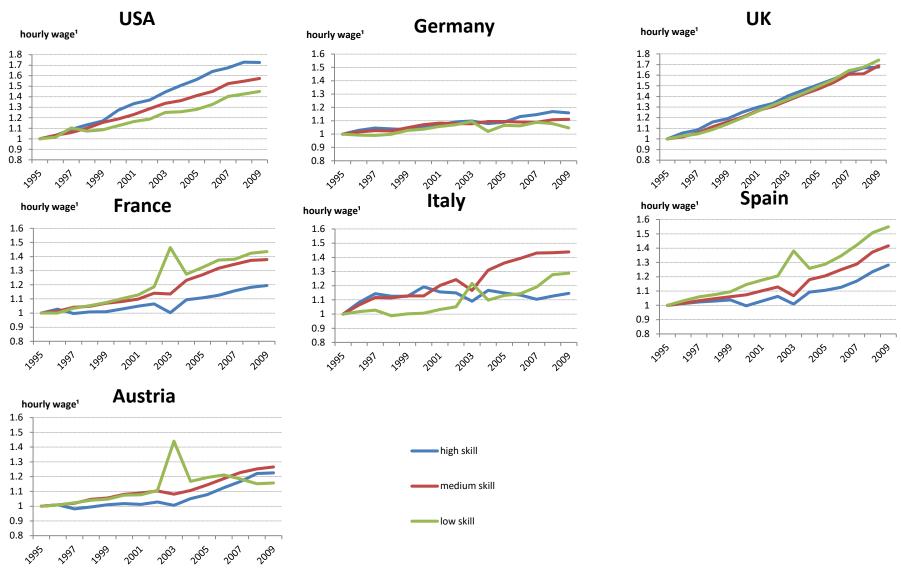
(Acemoglu and Autor 2011)

Technology requires ever more skills,

Technology and skills are complements

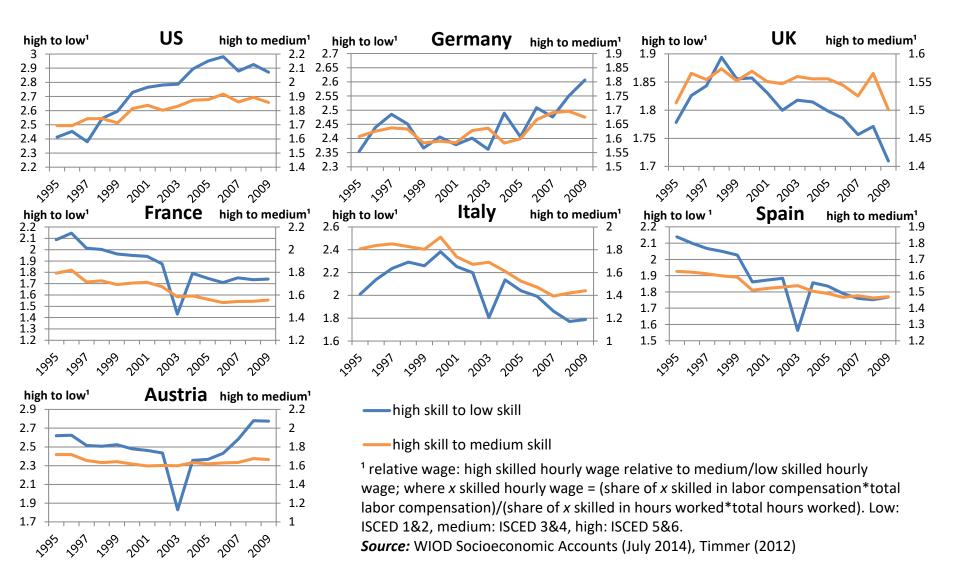
Prediction: Rise in the skill premium (relative wage between university graduates and high school graduates

Hourly wages by Skill level



¹ x skilled hourly wage = (share of x skilled in labor compensation*total labor compensation)(share of x skilled in hours worked*total hours worked); year 1995 is set to 1 for each country

Skill Premium of tertiary education



Summing up:

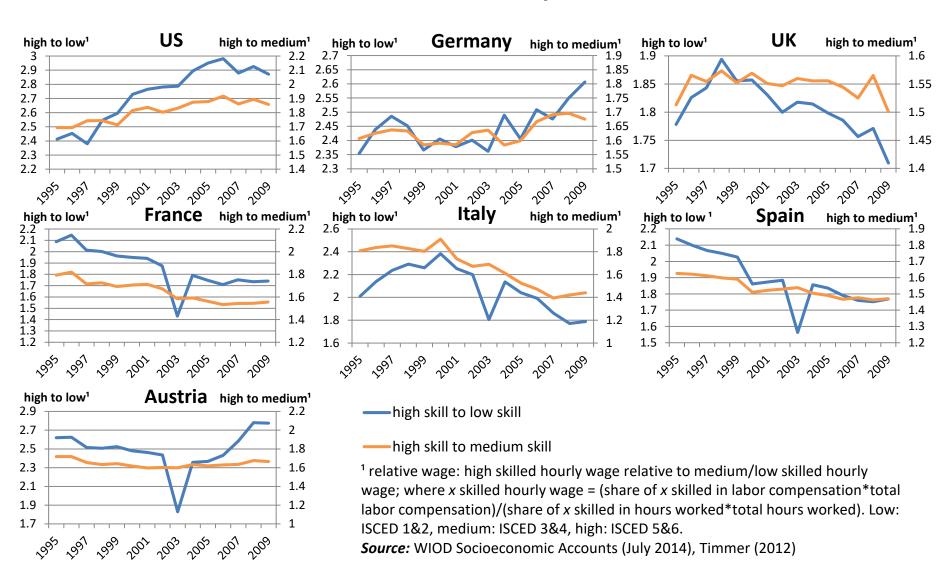
Except may be for Germany since 2005, the skill premium is declining in Europe.

Polarization Hypothesis

Information Technology replaces **routine jobs** in the **middle of the income distribution** (technology threatens the middle class)

Prediction: Complex jobs with high income (managers) and with low income (nurses) are in high demand and have high wages, decline in middle income

Skill Premium of tertiary education



Source: WIOD Socioeconomic Accounts (July 2014), Timmer (2012)

Why is the Skill-Premium Declining?

2 possibilities

• The demand for people with academic degrees has declined (capital-biased technology)

• The supply of people with academic degrees has increased too much (expansion of higher education)

Demand Side: Capital-biased Technology

Production becomes more capital intensive Technology and Skills are Substitutes

Academic people are replaced by the machines; the demand for people with academic degrees declines

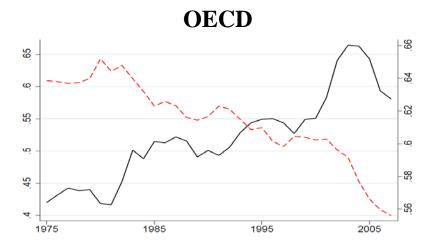
Intelligent robots replace lawyers, doctors, professors, journalists, financial analysts, financial advisers

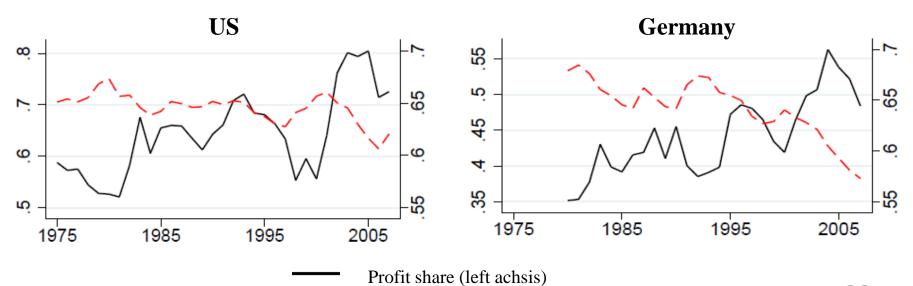
Evidence

- Constant skill premium in the US since 2000
- Global decline of the labor share in GDP since 1980
 - **Karabarbounis and Neiman** QJE 2014 decline is due to lower prices for technology, explains 50 % of the decline
- Rising skill unemployment in particular among the young

The Global Decline in the Labor Share

in percent of GDP





Labor Share (right achsis)

Unemployment Rates workers with tertiary education

	25-64 y	ears old	25-34 years old		
	2000	2012	2000	2012	
Austria	1.5	2.1		2.7	
France	5.1	5.1	6.6	6.8	
Germany	4.0	2.4	2.7	2.8	
Italy	5.9	6.4	15.5	13.7	
Spain	9.5	14.0	14.5	19.8	
UK	2.1	3.6	2.0	4.2	
USA	1.8	4.6	2.0	4.9	

OECD, Education at a Glance, 2014

Supply Side: Expansion of Higher Education

The expansion of Higher Education in Europe has been faster (supply)

than

the speed of technological advancement (demand)

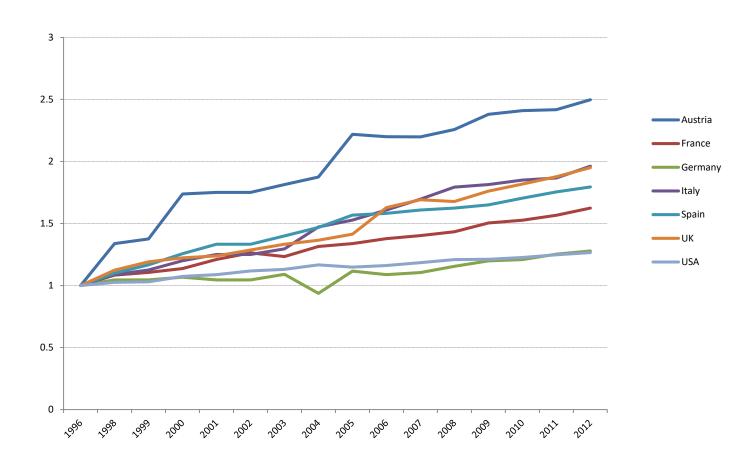
Goldin and Katz (2010): Race between Education and Technology

show that the **skill premium in the US** has risen in the 1980s and 1990s, because education stopped to advance while technology kept advancing.

Is the skill premium in Europe declining because higher education is outpacing technological change?

Evidence

Tertiary Education of 25-64 year-olds in percent of population ¹



Source: OECD, 2014, Education at a Glance.

¹ tertiary education: International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) categories 5&6.

Fazit

Except for Germany,

the share of the population with tertiary education has increased in Europe

by 60-250 percent in the last 15 years.

Are we fighting the wrong battle?

Policy Implication

Scarcity of education and talent may lie behind us

The push for more higher education may be the wrong way to go.

New Issue

Capital vs Labor

rather than

Human Capital vs Labor