



Lecture 10-1

Work and Wealth

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Participation Quiz

6. You're in a car with a helium balloon tied to the floor. The windows are closed. When you step on the gas pedal, what happens to the balloon – does it move forward, move backward, or stay put?

Does the balloon move forward, backward or stay still?



By Kirit Saelensminde

A

Moves forward

B

Moves backward

C

Stays put

Workplace Changes

- Technology has fundamentally changed workplace organization
 - Flattening out organizational structures, so that reporting tends to occur between affected people rather than along predefined paths
 - Facilitating the monitoring of employees
 - Slacking off at work
 - Illegal activities by employees
 - Allowing telecommuting
- *How do you feel about these changes?*
 - *Do you think they improve or degrade employee experience?*

Globalization

- The marketing of goods and services across global rather than national scales
 - Manufacturing goods in China, often using Canadian or Australian raw materials
 - Call centers in India
- Effects of globalization
 - Increased shipping and travel
 - Foreign workers (visas), students
 - Outsourcing
- *Do you think globalization is a problem or a benefit?*

The “Winner-Take-All Society”

- Occurs when a small number of top performers receive a large fraction of the rewards
 - Athletes, musicians, actors, law schools
- Harmful effects
 - Reduces the production of (e.g., cultural) goods
 - Unfair: severe penalty for falling a bit short
 - Leads to arms races
- What can be done?
 - Legal limits (e.g., working hours) to limit arms races
 - Cooperative agreements (e.g., cap on salaries in sports league)
 - Progressive taxation
- Beneficial effects
 - Why shouldn't we watch the best actors, athletes, etc?
 - I enjoy reading the same books as my friends (network effects)
 - Maybe a slightly better CEO (lawyer, etc.) really does make a huge difference to my company

Automation

Let's try a class debate:

“It is immoral for a corporation to pay its CEO 400 times as much as a production worker.”

If the last digit of your primary (e.g., mobile) phone number is **even**, you're arguing **for** the proposition.



For



Against