

New Directions in Meaningful Work

Workshop at Trinity College Dublin

28-29 November 2024

Organizers: Caleb Althorpe (TCD) and Charlotte Unruh (Southampton)

Venue:

TRiSS Boardroom, Arts Building, TCD

Workshop Description:

Meaningful work is engaging, autonomous, and gives people opportunities to shape their work and make a difference to their communities. In empirical studies, workers often report meaningfulness as the feature of work that they regard as the most important. However, there is significant disagreement about the nature and moral and political relevance of meaningful work. These questions have received renewed urgency, as decision makers around the globe grapple with the impact of new technologies at the workplace which can augment or even replace human workers. These potential futures of work raise questions about the nature of meaningfulness at work. What makes our working lives meaningful? How do new technologies impact meaningful work? Do people have a right to meaningful work? How do considerations of justice bear on meaningful work? This workshop will explore new directions in addressing these and related questions. The event will take the format of a small workshop for early career researchers to present and get feedback on work in progress in a friendly and supportive environment.

Speakers:

- Caleb Althorpe, TCD
- Rebecca Clark, Oxford
- Anna-Maria Kohnke, Manchester
- Samuel Mortimer, Oxford
- Catarina Neves, Utrecht
- Jens Tyssedal, Bergen
- Charlotte Unruh, Southampton

Provisional Timetable:

Thursday, 28 November

9:00-10:15 Rebecca Clark – “Must Everyone Do Essential Work?”

10:30-11:45 Jens Tyssedal – “Job Quality: Outline and Philosophical Foundations of a Normative, Informative, Non-Perfectionist Account”

12:00-13:15 Caleb Althorpe – “Meaningful Work and Economic Systems”

13:15-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:15 Catarina Neves – “To Work or Not to Work? In Favour of a Different View of Economic Reciprocity”

16:30-17:45 Anna-Maria Kohnke – “Conceptualising the Quality of Work”

18:30 Conference dinner

Friday, 29 November

9:00-10:15 Charlotte Unruh – “Meaningfulness, Attachment, and Working Lives”

10:30-11:45 Samuel Mortimer – “The Necessity of a Calling”

11:45 Conclusion

12:00-14:00ish Informal labour history walking tour