10.2 - Labor Replacement

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Prof. Jack Reilly

S2026

Think:

How do we re-organize society and the economy in light of AI-sparked labor market disruption? Or do we even need to - will the labor market take care of itself?

Read:

- Frey and Osborne, 2017. "The future of employment: How susceptible are jobs to computerisation?"
- Frey and Osborne, 2023. "Generative AI and the Future of Work: A Reappraisal"

Watch:

- CGP Grey, "Humans Need Not Apply"

Listen:

- Tyrangiel, 2026. "America Isn't Ready for What AI Will Do to Jobs" Podcast: Plain English with Derek Thompson.

Browse:

- Tyrangiel, 2026. "America Isn't Ready for What AI Will Do to Jobs" *The Atlantic*
- *Perhaps AI won't be as destructive to labor markets as we think?*
    - Edwards, "AI could create 78 million more jobs than it eliminates by 2030" *Ars Technica*
    - Pethokoukis, "Another Promising Data Point on the Productivity Impact of AI" *AEIdeas*

- Acemoglu and Johnson, "Learning from Ricardo and Thompson: Machinery and labor in the early industrial revolution – and in the age of AI"

Additional Resources:

- Stiefenhofer, 2025. "Artificial General Intelligence and the End of Human Employment: The Need to Renegotiate the Social Contract"
- Thompson, 2015. "A World Without Work". *The Atlantic*
- Two additional podcasts from the *Plain English* podcast:
  - Mollick, 2025. "What Happens When AI Learns to Do Our Jobs". Podcast: Plain English with Derek Thompson.
  - Korinek, 2025. "How Superintelligent AI Could Upend Work and Politics". Podcast: Plain English with Derek Thompson.
- Books:
  - Mollick, 2024. *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI*. Portfolio Books.
  - Frey, 2019. *The Technology Trap: Capital, Labor, and Power in the Age of Automation*
  - Korinek, 2024. "Preparing for the (Non-Existent?) Future of Work" *Oxford Handbook of AI Governance*
- Articles
  - Lobel, 2024. "The Future of Work in the Era of AI"
  - Felten, "How will Language Modelers like ChatGPT Affect Occupations and Industries?"
  - Generative AI for Economic Research
  - Korinek, "Economic Policy Challenges for the Age of AI"
  - Gottweis et al, 2025. "Towards an AI co-scientist". Google Research.
  - Pew Research, 2025. Workers Experience with Chatbots and their Jobs

Submit:

- Discussion question to course chat

> 💡 Tip
>
> - " Read", " Listen", and/or " Watch" items are required content for the day, and should be read/heard/watched before class on that day.
> - " Browse" items should be briefly looked at but do not need to be read deeply unless you want to
> - " Additional Resources" do not need to be looked at; they are there to serve, if

useful, as further references for your debates, final projects, and general edification later.