



THE DYNAMIC ROLE OF BASIC INCOME ON THE BARGAINING POWER OF THE PRECARIAT

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THE POWER IMBALANCE BETWEEN LABOUR AND CAPITAL

- The increasing gap between capital and labour share
- How production and distribution works
 - Neoliberalism(Agency): neutral or natural process towards supply-demand equilibrium
 - Marxism(Structure): antagonistic contract between capital and labour
- The role of institutions to balance the power
 - collective bargaining system as a channel to express their dissatisfaction and to require better benefits and working conditions
 - allocating power resources in favour of labour

THE LACK OF BARGAINING POWER OF THE PRECARIAT

- The Precariat as a newly emerging social class(Standing)
 - Chronic and Multi-dimensional insecurity that stems from unstable employment status
 - The distinctive position of the precariat in labour market/welfare system
 - Exclusion from the strong tie between labour market participation and welfare benefits + Absence of collective bargaining
- > Is there an alternative mean to directly deliver power to individuals?

BASIC INCOME INDUCED EMPOWERMENT THESIS

- The potential of Basic Income in transforming power relations in labour market
 - The assumption: precarious workers cannot demand better deals due to the fear of losing the job which results in income insecurity
 - The logic: stable income irrelevant to their employment status would offer an exit option, which put pressure on employers to accommodate their demands
- The linear link between Basic Income - Exit option - Bargaining power
 - Theoretically plausible, but but practically questionable

THE DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF BASIC INCOME

- Diverse stances
 - Power to say No to the bad deal(Widerquist, 2013)
 - Strike Fund(Wright, 2005)
 - Exit trap(Birnbaum & De Wispelaere, 2021)
 - Erosion of collective power(Gourevitch, 2016)

- Not conflicting, but different aspects of the argument
 - Then, ***under what conditions*** Basic Income works for each case?

RESEARCH AIMS

- Effectiveness of Basic Income a policy option: Political economy perspective
 - Identifying specific conditions that Basic Income either promotes and hinders the bargaining power of the precariat (both in individual and collective levels)
- Building a coherent and comprehensive theoretical framework
- Exploring how Basic Income differently operates in diverse bargaining contexts through empirical sub-studies

THE NEXUS BETWEEN BASIC INCOME, EXIT/VOICE AND BARGAINING POWER

- From “Power to” to “Power against”
 - Resources and (systematic) luck that affect the relative power
 - Having capability \neq Exercising power \neq Successful result
- Not answerable as it is, but requires unpacking
 - Link 1 : How basic income affects individual decision making in terms of exit and voice? (individual level)
 - Link 2 : Are those options effective means? (structural level)

DIVERSE EXIT OPTIONS

- Weak, strong and radical exits
 - the key dimension: labour market participation(dependency level)
 - 1) What exit option means to individuals - motive
 - 2) How Basic Income functions
 - 3) Conditions required to be activated
 - 4) How to affect bargaining power at collective level
 - Heterogeneity of the precariat and diverse bargaining context

HOW EXIT/VOICE OPTIONS WORK

- As a capability : means and intention (Dual role of basic income)
 - Means that is not fulfilled by Income support
 - The change of intention
- As a strategy
 - Estimated cost and benefit (Accessibility, upward mobility, and solidarity)
 - Relationship between exit and voice (diverse power resources)
- Employers' response to exit and voice
 - Exit matters when it exceeds certain level compared to more responsive to voice
 - The benefit and cost of diverse options : outsourcing, downsizing, offshoring etc.

CONTRIBUTION

- Sophisticating the argument
 - Identifying conditions that differ the trajectory
 - Clarifying the limit and potential of Basic Income
- Strategic Basic Income design
 - Subject focused and context specific
 - Generosity(Targeting) or universality(Solidarity)
 - Modality(duration)