During the past twenty years income inequality has increased in many Western countries. To a great extent, this development is related to the labour market as well as to political redistribution processes. Also, old patterns of inequality like segregation and segmentation in labour markets and societies still prevail, while new ones are emerging and intervening with the old ones: Race, gender and class as well as professionalization and deprofessionalization, access to knowledge, information and formal participation. Underlying the changes in markets and policy spheres, there is an ongoing change in labour itself, characterised and explored by catchy terms like digitalisation, decentralisation, flexibilization, fragmentation, individualisation and more. Although not yet fully understood, those factors contribute to reorganize the labour process and create new inequalities with promises and threats to individual biographies. Moreover, those inequalities have also started to challenge the meso- and macro level institutions of labour societies, like transfer income systems, education and vocational training, or political participation. As there has been a lot of scientific work on those topics in recent years, there is still a huge need to review and connect, to rediscover and to select findings to come a step closer to an international discourse on social inequality related to labour – which is the aim of the workshop. The scientific committee therefore encourages theoretical, empirical, experimental and policy-oriented contributions from economy, sociology, labour and social policy studies and related disciplines.

The workshop is co-organized by the Council for Social policy of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Frankfurt, the Sections for Social Inequality and Political Sociology of the German Sociological Association and the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Nuremberg.

Submission
The paper submission deadline is May 1, 2009. Please submit electronic versions of completed papers (pdf preferred) to pia.klotz@iab.de. You will be notified on acceptance of your paper until June 15, 2009. The conference papers may thereafter be submitted for publication in a special issue of the Journal for Labour Market Research (Zeitschrift für ArbeitsmarktForschung).

Scientific Committee
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Travel, accommodation and conference fees
Limited travel and accommodation for speakers of accepted papers (one speaker per paper) will be reimbursed. There will be no conference fee for presenters of accepted papers.