The precarisation of employment in Europe in the context of globalisation

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Taking a critical perspective on the concept of a 'precariat', this presentation will argue that for certain sectoral and occupational groups, in certain countries and at certain points in history (most notably the third quarter of the 20th Century) it was possible to achieve a relatively high degree of job stability and wage protection. It will then outline the processes by which much of this security has been unravelled in the context of technological change and globalisation over the past three decades. However the process of precarisation has been differentiated and contradictory. Whilst there are undoubtedly trends towards increasing precariousness, and associated empowerment, there are also countervailing tendencies, which will be discussed in the concluding section of the presentation.