

Call for Papers: The Political Economy of Technological Change

Fall 2026 Workshop

We invite submissions for a workshop on the *Political Economy of Technological Change*, to be held in Fall 2026. This interdisciplinary gathering aims to bring together scholars from political science, economics, business, and related fields to explore how technology and society co-evolve—**how political and economic forces shape technological innovation, and how those innovations, in turn, reshape institutions, markets, and political behavior.**

The workshop will be held at **Washington University in St. Louis** on **October 16-17, 2026**. Accommodations will be provided, and limited funding for travel will be available.

We welcome papers addressing the political and economic consequences of technological change, as well as work on the political and economic drivers of innovation. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- the impact of technological change on inequality, labor markets, voting behavior, or regulatory regimes
- the role of institutions, interest groups, or ideology in shaping the direction and pace of innovation
- comparative or historical analyses of industrialization, electrification, automation, the digital economy, or artificial intelligence
- the co-evolution of state capacity, market structure, and technological frontier
- political risk, intellectual property regimes, or global governance and their influence on innovation systems
- technology diffusion and political development in low- and middle-income countries

We adopt a broad and inclusive definition of “technology”, encompassing not only recent developments such as AI, robotics, and digital platforms, but also earlier transformative innovations such as industrial manufacturing, railroads, electricity, telecommunications, and mechanization. We especially welcome submissions that connect these historical and contemporary episodes in theoretically innovative ways and with appropriate empirical support.

If you are interested in participating, please complete this [form](#) by **May 10, 2026**. For any questions, please contact petech2026@gmail.com. We will notify selected participants by **May 30, 2026**.

Organizing Committee:

[Timm Betz](#), Associate Professor of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis

[Yiming Cao](#), Assistant Professor in Economics, the University of Hong Kong

[Tian Chen](#), PhD Candidate in Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis

[Yican Liu](#), PhD Candidate in Finance, the University of Hong Kong

[Guillermo Rosas](#), Lena Gohlman Fox Professor of Political Science, Rice University