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Discussant Extra Credit: Additional Text

**Article Name:** *Understanding the impact of automation on workers, jobs, and wages.*

**Article URL:** <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/01/19/understanding-the-impact-of-automation-on-workers-jobs-and-wages/>

**Summary:**

Ever since the beginning of the industrial revolution, workers have feared that they will be completely replaced by machines and left jobless. Over time, automation in the workplace often creates as many jobs as it destroys. Instead of replacing workers entirely, workers who can “collaborate” with these machines are more productive than those without them. However, there are workers who lose out, primarily those directly replaced by the machines and those who must now compete with them in terms of efficiency and output. It is important to note that workers who can complementthe new automated machine, and perform tasks beyond the abilities of just a human alone, often enjoy great compensation. In contrast, workers performing similar tasks to the automated machines for whom the machines can substitute, are left worse off than before the implementation of automated machines. Advanced technology in the workplace has been better suited to more educated workers as seen by the fact that robots have displaced unskilled workers on assembly lines, but have also created new jobs for machinists, welders, and other technicians who maintain/upgrade the machines.

However, the previous paragraph was mainly concerned with older forms of technological advancements. Newer automation such as robotics and artificial intelligence, unlike previous improvements in technology, will allow machines to perform more tasks and thus have the potential to create more worker displacement than these previous forms of technological advancement. In order to combat these side effects of automation new and improved policies must be adopted in the following areas in order to allow for increased efficiency while at the same time considering the livelihood of the individuals of society: education and training, creation of “good” and sustainable jobs by employers, and wage supplements for workers.

**Relation:**

This article relates to the other readings assigned to the class as its main topics are the concerns that automation and algorithms have on the labor sector. However, this article focuses more on the logistical side effects of the “new automation” than it does with the ethical harms caused by machines in the workplace. It also highlights some of the positives artificial intelligence can have in the workplace, unlike *Labor* by Kate Crawford which mainly focused on the ethical harms and concerns of AI at companies such as Amazon.