

## **A response to Alfredo Pastor**

### **JOBS AND WAGES IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

#### **Abstract by Jacques DARCY**

1. Digital developments prompt changes that could result in greater equality and widespread prosperity, nevertheless inequality of origin enables some to take higher levels of risk than others. Pareto-inspired approaches could be useful to assess this aspect of current economic trends
2. Much of innovation economic studies is focussed on the study of individual firms or technology sectors. However current developments should prompt a rethink of macro-economics, it would be opportune to reassess basic paradigms of classical economy (equilibrium; keynesian economics; etc. in this light, and point to which macro-economists today are working on the new tools which are needed)
3. The role of military and space research expenditure in driving technology revolutions is a fact which we cannot avoid, but which probably creates a vicious circle leading to technology development on the one end, war on the other. Economic research should study such trends much more seriously than until now. Having access to adequate data may require decisions by representative bodies (parliaments etc.) so that defense restrictions are lifted.
4. Lastly the issue of intellectual property regimes should be looked at in standalone manner. In ethical terms, it is worth discussing whether anyone can appropriate an intangible (say an idea) – Some traditions (take native peoples) actually consider that appropriation of any sort of asset, intangible or tangible, is a sin.

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