## Organization of Knowledge and Taxation

Marek Kapička and Ctirad Slavík\*

September 15, 2021

## **Abstract**

This paper studies how labor income taxation interacts with the organization of knowledge and production, and ultimately the distribution of wages in the economy. A more progressive tax system reduces the time that managers allocate to work. This makes the organization of production less efficient and reduces wages at both tails of the distribution, which increases lower tail wage inequality and decreases upper tail wage inequality. The optimal tax system is substantially less progressive than the current one in the United States. However, if wages were exogenous, the optimal tax progressivity would be much higher.

J.E.L Codes: E6, H2, D8, L23

Keywords: inequality, wages, knowledge based hierarchies, income taxation

<sup>\*</sup>Marek Kapička, CERGE-EI. Email: marek.kapicka@cerge-ei.cz. Ctirad Slavík, CERGE-EI. Email: ctirad.slavík@cerge-ei.cz. CERGE-EI, a joint workplace of Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education, Charles University and the Economic Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Politickych veznu 7, P.O. Box 882, 111 21 Prague 1, Czech Republic. We would like to thank Ivo Bakota, Pawel Doligalski, Asier Mariscal, John Moore, B. Ravikumar, Florian Scheuer and Hakki Yazici, as well as audiences at various seminars, workshops and conferences for useful comments. We also thank Faisal Sohail for help with the CPS data, Marta Cota, Ante Sterc and Dusan Stojanovic for research assistance, and Andrea Downing for language editing. The authors acknowledge support from the Czech Science Foundation, grant 20-28979S.