The Kieler Konjunkturgespräche (KKG) is the Forecasting Center’s flagship conference on international business cycle analysis. Here we share our research and discuss global macroeconomic issues with other forecasters, policy makers, and business leaders. Going on for more than four decades, this bi-annual series of conferences is well-established in the international forecasting community. Traditionally, the KKG venue alternates between Kiel (spring) and Berlin (autumn).

The basis for the KKG is provided by presentations by national and international experts on the economic perspectives for important countries and regions as well as on pressing issues for economic policy. Also, the Forecasting Center presents its latest forecasts and analyses on the German economy, the Euro area economy, and the world economy, and it discusses global macroeconomic topics with other business cycle experts, policy-makers, and business representatives. The conference language is English.

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EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?
THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES
OF DIGITALIZATION

The process of digitalization affects almost every aspect of human life. However, technological change has been ongoing for centuries, when economies were reshaped through groundbreaking inventions such as the steam engine, assembly lines, railways, electricity, chemistry and automobiles. Is the digital transformation merely the most recent form of technological change that allows for further productivity and welfare gains, leaving well-established economic principles in place? Or is this time different, meaning that the speed and intensity of structural change induced by digitalization is unprecedented? Will workers be replaced by robots and intelligent computers leaving millions jobless and without perspective, or will economies adapt quickly and create new jobs elsewhere? Moreover, how does digitalization alter price setting of firms and what does this imply for monetary policy? What is the true economic value of new digital services, given that there is often no marginal cost of production and their price is relatively low – and what does this imply for measuring economic activity? The 99th KKG discusses changes, chances and challenges of the digital (r)evolution.