



– Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest –

Theorising Labour Law in a Changing World: New Perspectives and Approaches

Maastricht University Faculty of Law, 13-14 December 2016

Paper proposals due 15 July 2016

The world of work is changing. As the traditional Fordist model of secure, long-term employment breaks down, insecure, precarious and short-term jobs are becoming a reality for a growing number of people. Individuals in developed, post-industrial countries are increasingly working on short-term or casual contracts, as self-employed entrepreneurs, or via online platforms such as Uber, AirBnB and Airtasker. Simultaneously, while informality has long been a key feature of work for many people in developing and emerging economies, digitalization and technology-enabled crowd sourcing are creating new forms of precarity and insecurity there too. As labour markets globalize and their composition diversifies, the ‘traditional’ white male worker is no longer the norm. However, those who do not fit that mold still experience barriers to entry and/or high levels of discrimination at work, including in recruitment, terms and conditions, training, and progression.

Labour law is struggling to adapt to these trends, with most employment and social rights still reserved for ‘employees’ whose work falls within or most approximates the ‘old’ model. Despite recognition that new ways of thinking about labour law are necessary, many labour law theorists are similarly struggling to adapt to these developments; many still try to fit new trends into old legal frameworks. Yet, adapting traditional theories to contemporary changes can only get us so far: what we need is a more fundamental rethinking of labour law.

Recent years have seen significant academic engagement with the question of how to rethink – or transform – labour law, and this workshop seeks to extend this conversation. Rather than replicate or adapt existing ideas and hierarchies in labour law scholarship, we want to disrupt and challenge, both by drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives and by giving space to new voices on this topic. Thus, we are seeking to break down academic

silos and promote fruitful conversations between legal researchers and other disciplines. We also wish to promote an inter-generational dialogue between established and emerging researchers, and, crucially, give more prominence to perspectives from the developing world, recognizing the growing internationalization of working lives and the universal, though locally specific, implications of many of these trends.

With these objectives in mind, we invite paper proposals and expressions of interest in participating in a two-day workshop, which will take place at the **Maastricht University Faculty of Law (NL) on 13-14 December 2016**. Since the workshop's aim is to push the boundaries of labour law, by promoting a more inclusive and critical dialogue, we are especially interested in papers that adopt **new and interdisciplinary approaches, and in contributions from early career and emerging scholars**. Proposals that draw on insights from the disciplines of industrial relations, political economy, philosophy, and sociology, but also feminist theories and women's studies, science and technology, environmental law and sustainability studies, and others are especially welcome, as are contributions from scholars working in – or on – emerging and developing economies.

In the interest of inter-generational exchange, we have invited a number of leading labour law academics who are innovators in their field to join our conversation. To facilitate broad participation, we are in the process of applying for funding to cover the costs of attendance (economy travel and accommodation) for all paper presenters. Also, we will seek to cover most costs for a number of non-presenting participants, who will be selected on the basis of their expressions of interest. We anticipate that the workshop will lead to an edited collection of papers (to be submitted as a proposal to Hart Publishing and/or as a special issue of a leading journal) and a panel proposal for the 2017 Labour Law Research Network (LLRN) conference in Toronto, Canada.

Paper proposals (250-300 words) and **statements expressing interest in participation** (without presenting a paper but expressing how attendance will enrich our conversation and the applicant's academic development: 100 words) should be sent, along with a brief biographical statement (100 words) to theorising.labour.law@gmail.com by **5pm British Summer Time on 15 July 2016**. Decisions on acceptance and invitations will be made and communicated by mid August 2016. **Full papers** will be required for circulation to workshop participants by **31 October 2016**.

Any queries can be directed to theorising.labour.law@gmail.com.

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