Downloaded from UvA-DARE, the institutional repository of the University of Amsterdam (UvA)
http://hdl.handle.net/11245/2.106194

File ID	uvapub:106194
Filename	Cover
Version	unknown

SOURCE (OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCE):

Type	PhD thesis
Title	Decency and the market: the ILO's Decent Work Agenda as a moral market boundary
Author	M.L. Biermans
Faculty	FEB: Amsterdam School of Economics Research Institute (ASE-RI)
Year	2012

FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS:
http://hdl.handle.net/11245/1.387032

Copyright

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use.

UvA-DARE is a service provided by the library of the University of Amsterdam (http://dare.uva.nl)
(pagedate: 2014-08-22)

DECENCY and THE MARKET
The ILO's *Decent Work Agenda* as a Moral Market Boundary

Markets do not bring about morally beneficial results by and of themselves. Any moral evaluation of market outcomes is to a large extent contingent on the way markets are allowed to operate, i.e. by the boundaries that determine where and how the market is allowed to function. Labor standards and the ILO's *Decent Work Agenda*, which is based on the normative concepts of human dignity and decency, can be seen as fulfilling this boundary function.

In this book Maarten Biermans (1974) discusses the relationship between markets and morality by way of this agenda. In this discussion the focus lies not solely on the content of that agenda but also on its two foundational normative concepts and the way they interact with markets. The concept of human dignity comes with a considerable history which is covered in the analysis. With regard to decency, the writings of the philosopher Avishai Margalit on the *Decent Society* are used in the appraisal of the ILO's Decent Work framework.

The evaluation of the framework shows that the *Decent Work Agenda* will not be able to function effectively as a moral market boundary. The reasons for this outcome are predominantly found in the methodology that was deployed (e.g. the way the underlying concepts are defined) as well as in a general opposition against the idea of decency as an evaluative concept. The overall assessment presented in this dissertation offers various suggestions and routes on how to effectively incorporate the concepts human dignity and decency in moral market boundaries.

DECENCY and THE MARKET
The ILO's *Decent Work Agenda* as a Moral Market Boundary
Maarten Biermans

DECENCY and THE MARKET

The ILO's *Decent Work Agenda* as a Moral Market Boundary

Maarten Biermans