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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Decency and the Market: The ILO's Decent Work Agenda as a Moral Market Boundary

1. The introduction of the Decent Work Agenda is a significant attempt to introduce the normative in a debate dominated by economics; the way the agenda has progressed especially with regard to furthering the underlying ideas suggest that the attempt has stalled if not faltered

2. Normative economic policy making should be phrased in the prescriptive negative, making explicit (and explaining) what it aims to minimize and how this is to be achieved

3. If the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were to be drafted today it would not become universal

4. More often than not a lack of understanding of the history and methodology of economics leads to a situation wherein an economist is unaware of the normative content of his models and recommendations

5. Offering students an opportunity to obtain a real insight into the workings of the economy requires that the current curriculum of economics in Dutch universities be expanded with courses in philosophy and political science

6. A fundamental and single-minded belief in a market solution to moral issues implies that the following is not contradictory: "Due to the economic and financial crisis we can no longer afford your human rights. We apologize for the inconvenience."

7. Menig deelnemer aan het publieke debat gaat gebukt onder de dictatuur van zijn eigen mening

8. In putting a limitation on the number of words a PhD thesis may contain, the University of Amsterdam shows a thorough, complete, utter, villainous, vicious, unwarranted, unwanted, regrettable, disrespectful and basically uncool attitude towards adjectives.

9. Not believing in free will is a choice

10. In plaats van te zeggen wat ze denken zouden mensen wat vaker moeten vertellen wat ze bedoelen

Maarten Biermans
Amsterdam, mei 2012