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Decency and the market: the ILO's Decent Work Agenda as a moral market boundary

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Curriculum Vitae

Maarten Biermans (1974) was born in the Dutch city of Nijmegen. Having moved to the city of Amersfoort at the age of four, he completed his secondary education at the Eemland College Zuid in 1993. In that year he started reading Economics at the University of Amsterdam. The following year he also took up reading Philosophy. During his studies he was an active (board) member of various student bodies including the student theatrical society. Towards the end of his studies he also did several internships. In 1999 he spent a couple of months as an analyst at the corporate finance division of the investment bank J. Henry Schroder & Co in London. This was followed in 2000 by a research internship for the NGO Plan International, which brought him to Bangalore (India) where he—and a fellow researcher—conducted a survey into the social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS in the region. Apart from a short stint as a business analyst at the internet company Lost Boys he worked for two years as an assistant of the Managing Director of the Dutch branch of Citibank. Having obtained his MSc in Economics (2001) and his MA in Philosophy (2002) he started work at SEO Economic Research, an independent applied research institute with strong ties with the Economic faculty of the University of Amsterdam. There he participated in various economic and econometric contract research assignments for companies, sector associations, government bodies, and international organizations. His work was predominantly focused on the topics of labor markets, education and market organization. In the summer of 2006, two years after he started work on his dissertation, he was a visiting scholar at the Stanford Graduate Business School of Stanford University. In 2007 he started work at Spring Associates, a strategy consulting firm based in Amsterdam with a special focus on sustainability. He was worked—first as an associate and currently as a manager—on numerous projects (related to strategy, portfolio analyses, due diligence and new business development) for various blue chip companies, other public and private organizations as well as private investors on topics ranging from renewable energy, logistics, food and media. In his spare time he serves as a treasurer of a small theatre company ('De Kale'), a member of the Holland Festival Young Circle and volunteers in the board of a local play ground. He has a great fondness for antiquarian books, the performing arts and has—since 1990—attended nearly fifteen concerts by Bob Dylan. Maarten is married to Quirine Eijkman (PhD) and together with their three children (Theresa, Julius and Oscar), they live in Amsterdam.