



Regulating Flexibility: The Political Economy of Employment Standards

By Mark P. Thomas

McGill-Queen's University Press, Canada, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In a contemporary labour market that includes growing levels of precarious employment, the regulation of minimum employment standards is intricately connected to conditions of economic security. With a focus on the role of neoliberal labour market policies in promoting flexible employment standards legislation - particularly in the areas of minimum wages and working time - Mark Thomas argues that shifts toward flexible legislation have played a central role in producing patterns of labour market inequality. Using an analytic framework that situates employment standards within the context of the broader social relations that shape processes of labour market regulation, Thomas constructs a case study of employment standards legislation in Ontario from 1884 to 2004. Drawing from political economy scholarship and using a qualitative research methodology, Thomas analyses class, race and gender dimensions of legislative developments, highlighting the ways in which shifts towards flexible employment standards have exacerbated longstanding radicalised and gendered inequities. *Regulating Flexibility* argues that in order to counter current trends towards increased insecurity, employment standards should not be treated as a secondary form of labour protection but as a...



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