



## LABOUR LAW SEMINAR

### What Kind of “Flexibility” in Labour and Employment Regulation for Economic Development?

Scholars have long debated the role of protective labour and employment regulation in economic performance, arguing for or against regulatory “flexibility”. This debate has yielded strong theoretical disagreements and mixed empirical evidence. Recently, a group of economists has developed an increasingly prominent theory arguing that common law countries have more flexible labour regulation and, as a result, better economic performance than civil law countries. This seminar challenges this theory and highlights the need for a richer contextual analysis of labour regimes and of the actors and institutions that operate within them. This contextual approach clarifies how different labour regimes are implicated in a country’s economic performance. It can also offer better guidance in devising regulatory strategies for economic development in view of a country’s own institutional arrangements.

**Professor Alvaro Santos** is Associate Professor of Law at Georgetown University. He teaches international trade, law and economic development and transnational labour law, and his scholarly interests also include international law and legal theory. Professor Santos’ research analyses the impact of the global economy on domestic labour regimes. He is author of *The World Bank’s Uses of the “Rule of Law” Promise in Economic Development* in *The New Law and Economic Development: A Critical Appraisal* (Cambridge 2006), which he co-edited with David Trubek.

**DATE:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
**TIME:** 1:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Room G29 (Ground Floor) – Melbourne Law School  
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*A light lunch will be served*