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Leiden
The Netherlands

The European precariat: the protection of precarious workers in the European Union

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Citation

Carter, D. W. (2023, April 19). *The European precariat: the protection of precarious workers in the European Union*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3594459>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Propositions relating to the dissertation *The European Precariat* by Daniel Carter:

1. Precarious employment is difficult to define but can be characterised as non-standard forms of employment where there is involuntary insecurity and a power imbalance between employer and worker, such as zero-hour and on-demand work; short-term/temporary contracts; or bogus self-employment.
2. The protection of workers at the EU level is the result of a complicated and ever-changing dynamic, between economic development, political priorities, and the constitutional limitations of European integration.
3. The imbalance between market and social integration means that the EU is limited in the level of protection it can provide to workers engaged in precarious employment.
4. After decades of European Union law and policy moving toward a more “neoliberal” concept of legal protection, recent developments suggest that it is shifting towards a system focussing more on security in employment.
5. Meeting the *Lawrie-Blum* definition under EU law provides the worker with a citizenship-like array of civil and social rights. However, those not meeting these criteria can have no protection, resulting in those with the greatest need for protection being the least likely to receive it.
6. The European Union does not have a comprehensive form of social citizenship to protect precarious workers outside of the *Lawrie-Blum* criteria.
7. The Court of Justice cannot be expected to impose a framework of social rights against the will of the EU legislator.
8. The current competences of the EU provide space for a more comprehensive framework of protection, which would mitigate many of the problems experienced by those falling outside of the *Lawrie-Blum* definition.
9. Your physical and mental wellbeing is far more important than the latest thesis deadline.
10. Never underestimate how long it will take to finish a PhD in your “spare time”.
11. Always seek the truth, even if the answers make you feel uncomfortable.
12. Both inside and outside of the thesis writing process, never be afraid of taking an unknown path: you never know where it will take you!