The Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing and the Socio-Legal Research Centre invite you to a seminar

“Labour market and IR reforms: is flexicurity an answer?”

When: 1.30 – 2.30pm, Tuesday 28th July, 2009
Where: Videoconference:
Nathan Campus, Room -1.18, Building N72 (Business 2);
Gold Coast Campus, Room 1.04, Building G34 (Chancellery)

The issue of "flexicurity" that has emerged as a labour market reform paradigm in response to the neo-liberal pressure for labour market flexibility in the EU will be at the core of the presentation. Instead of proposing a market driven "trickle down security" from sufficiently flexible labour markets, flexicurity contends that it needs effective labour market policies and tripartite negotiations for achieving security. While countries that have organized their labour markets in a way that allow flexibility and security show good labour market performance, the concept is not uncontested and a political economy of flexicurity has developed. The present financial and economic crisis is an opportunity to test some of the alleged benefits of flexicurity and although the crisis is not over, some first hypotheses can be presented. It appears also that the concept is relevant in the context of recent Australian labour market reforms.

Speaker: Dr Peter Auer, Invited professor at the University of Paris 1 (Paris school of economics), fellow at the University of Sydney and senior fellow of the International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS) of the ILO, Geneva.

Peter holds a PH.D in economics and the social sciences. He was formerly senior research fellow of the Science Center (WZB) in Berlin, head of the European Employment Observatory and co-founder and director of the Institute for Applied Socio-Economics, Berlin. He held teaching assignments at the University of Paris I, at the Free University of Berlin and Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. He was chief of the employment analysis and research unit of the Employment Sector, ILO, Geneva until his recent retirement from the ILO. He has worked extensively on labour market developments and on labour market policy and his recent research is on a new framework for labour market security in response to the challenges of globalization.

General Enquiries and RSVP; Phone: (07) 3735 3714  Email: wow@griffith.edu.au