



Visiting Professor

Fat Cats, Production Networks, and the Human Right to Fair Pay

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The Sigmund Gutter conference room (303) Trubowicz Building,
The Buchmann Faculty of Law



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Many people believe that chief executives of large corporations receive excessive remuneration. Yet, if their salaries are fixed by negotiations in a free market, how can they be excessive or unjust? If the unfairness of their remuneration arises from disparities in pay within the corporation, what renders the inequalities unjust? And why limit the province of justice in wages to the boundaries of the corporation? These corporations use extensive supply chains and production networks to help to produce their products and services. Although workers at the other end of the production network are often exploited, large western corporations typically absolve themselves of responsibility for their predicament on the ground that these workers are employed by separate businesses, often far removed down a chain of contacts. Yet why are these companies not responsible when these exploited workers make a vital contribution to a large corporations' products and, by working for hardly anything at all, its profits. At the same time, these corporations proclaim that they respect and protect human rights. Is it possible to challenge both excessive executive remuneration and exploitation in production networks by relying on the human right to fair pay?