



## Work on Demand: Contracting for Work in a Changing Economy

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### **The Political Economy of Labour Law Reform: Regulating Platform Work in Italy and the UK**

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In the past few years, the platform economy has emerged as one of the most ‘disrupting’ phenomena in the labour market, putting to question older ways of organising work and of managing employment relationships. Across the board, policy actors and stakeholders have reacted by initiating a process of adaptation of national labour law frameworks to the new forms of employment and contract for work. Nevertheless, this process has been far from homogenous across countries, as pre-existing employment-related institutional frameworks –*labour constitutions* – have continued to shape the strategies and responses of different policy actors and stakeholders in different ways. Using semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders in addition to documentary analysis, this paper explores the ongoing process of legal adaptation in two countries characterised by very different employment law frameworks, industrial relations and policy preferences: Italy and the UK. It shows how the differences in these institutional variables can explain the strikingly different responses of actors to the question of labour law reform in respect of platform work and argues that they are likely to influence the unfolding reform process in years to come.