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**MEMO FOR TIMES OF PRECARIETY: BEYOND NEO-NATIONALISM AND
MORE OF THE SAME GLOBALISATION**

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The law is implicated in many of the stories that produce inequality and precarity in the global economy. It contributes to the extremely unequal bargaining power between states, capital and labour. This paper explores these economic relations focusing not on international institutions, such as the WTO, the EU or the IMF, but on the rules that shape everyday economic transactions (i.e. the rules that shape many of the stories). This view ‘from below’ requires recalibrating our understanding of the relationship between law and economic relations and its recent and constant evolution. Drawing some inspiration from the Italian writer Italo Calvino and the German sociologist Hartmut Rosa, I argue that understanding these dynamics ‘from below’ is a first and necessary step to rely on legal language as a means to slow down and territorially embed some of these economic transactions. These outcomes would contribute to changing the patterns of the relations that make the global economy, facilitating inter-state coordination, improving the bargaining power of weak actors and opening spaces for transnational collective organisation. I specifically look at the garment and translation sectors as examples of extreme bargaining inequality between states, capital and labour, which the law could help to address with some - but arguably feasible – levels of cooperation. Altogether, this strategy incarnates precisely the opposite of neo-nationalist reactions to the global economy, such as Brexit and Trump’s trade policy.