

World Trade Institute

Annual Report 2023



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UNIVERSITY
OF BERN

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From the Managing Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to this overview of recent activities at the World Trade Institute.

The WTI continues to move from strength to strength. On the education side, there is strong demand for our educational offerings, both on-site and online. We also continue to offer specialised training as part of our outreach mission.

On the research side, the WTI team maintains its focus on threats and opportunities to international economic governance. This includes trade and sustainability, food security challenges, the growing security dimension of trade, digital trade, supply chain resilience, and the enforcement and updating of trade and investment agreements. Populism and economic nationalism also pose important challenges to policy coordination.

Finally, the extensive network of WTI alumni is front and centre in addressing these threats and opportunities to global economic governance.

Again, welcome to our annual report.

Joseph Francois
Managing Director, World Trade Institute

The Institute

The World Trade Institute was established in 1999 to train future practitioners and researchers from all over the world and to strengthen research capacities in the field of international trade and investment regulation. The WTI combines graduate-level education and interdisciplinary research in law, economics and political science, as well as specialised advisory services. We recruit students, researchers, faculty and employees from around the world, creating a diverse culture and stimulating environment.

Executive Board



Members of the Advisory Board

- Arthur Appleton
- Thomas Bernauer
- Didier Chambovey
- Thomas Cottier
- Victor do Prado
- Roberto Echandi
- Arancha González
- Bernard Hoekman
- Marion Jansen
- Beata Javorcik
- Gabrielle Marceau
- Werner Zdouc

Administration





Graduate Programmes

▲ The class of 2024 at the WTO Public Forum in September

MAS in International Law and Economics (MILE)

Since 1999, the WTI offers the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) programme. This interdisciplinary master's programme comprises courses on the law, economics and politics of international trade and investment. The MILE programme prepares students for a professional career in international organisations, government ministries, academic institutions, global companies or internationally operating law firms.

In 2023, 9 students from 9 different countries were accepted to the MILE Programme.

The tuition fee for the MILE programme is **18,000 Swiss francs.**

For more information on the MILE programme, please see wti.org/education/master/mile/

MAS in Trade and Investment Law & DAS in International Law and Economics (TRAIL+)

Since 2017, the WTI also offers, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern, the TRAIL+ programme. This programme combines the Master of Advanced Studies in Trade and Investment Law (LL.M.) with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS in International Law and Economics). Like the MILE programme, the TRAIL+ programme is an interdisciplinary master's programme, but it focuses more on the law of international trade and investment than the MILE programme. The in-depth knowledge of international trade and investment law, combined with the understanding of the related economics and politics, prepares students for a professional career as lawyers in the public or private sector or as legal scholars.

In 2023, 19 students from 13 different countries were accepted to the TRAIL+ Programme.

The tuition fee for the TRAIL+ programme is **18,000 Swiss francs.**

For more information on the TRAIL+ programme, please see wti.org/education/master/trail/

CAS/DAS in International Law and Economics (ILE)

In addition to the MILE & TRAIL+ programmes, the WTI offers students programmes leading to a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) or a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. These CAS and DAS programmes are open to participants with undergraduate degrees and/or relevant professional experience.

Participants who complete 8 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper will receive a CAS. Participants who complete 22 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper will receive a DAS.

In 2023, 6 participants were pursuing the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics.

The tuition fee is **4,000 Swiss francs** for the CAS ILE and **10,000 Swiss francs** for the DAS ILE.

For more information on the CAS ILE and DAS ILE programmes, please see: wti.org/education/cas-das-programmes/

Winter and Summer Academy programmes

Each year, the WTI offers, in the context of its Winter and Summer Academies, intensive, week-long, 20-hour courses on the law, economics and politics of international trade, investment and sustainable development. The Winter Academy, held in January and February, and the Summer Academy, held in June and July, comprise 4 and 11 courses, respectively. These courses are an integral part of the MILE, TRAIL+, CAS ILE and DAS ILE programmes. However, they are also open to external participants and are of particular interest to government officials and private-sector professionals. In 2023, a total of 57 external participants took part in the Winter Academy and 105 participants participated in the Summer Academy courses.

The tuition fee for an Academy course is **1,200 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the Winter and Summer Academies, please see:

wti.org/education/summer-academy/ or wti.org/education/winter-academy/

Doctoral Programme

In 2023, 7 students were accepted to the WTI Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration (EGI) to start their PhD research in law and economics. In total, the WTI Graduate School EGI has 30 PhD students. 16 are law students, 12 are economics and 2 are political science.

Over 2023, the WTI organised several PhD colloquia where students presented their research and three doctorate courses. In April, the WTI organised a course on Computable General Equilibrium Modelling using GAMS taught by Hugo Rojas-Romagosa. The goal of the course was to provide an introductory hands-on training on computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling using the GAMS software. In June, there was another economic course on Input-Output and Computational General Equilibrium Models for Trade Policy Modeling lectured by Eddy Bekkers and Patrick Tomberger.

In the fall of 2023, the WTI organised a course on recent developments on International Investment Law, lectured by Michele Potestà, Nikos Lavranos, Sofia Boza, and Andrea Steingruber. This course focused on the criticism that the current investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) system is facing and the various reform efforts that States and other stakeholders are making to address such criticism.

The Graduate School EGI also supported the workshop on Modelling international trade and climate challenges, which took place in April at the WTI. The workshop brought researchers from several universities and research institutions to discuss the recent advances in climate and trade modelling emphasising the interplay of econometric tools and multi-country, multi-sector general-equilibrium models.

For more information about the Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration, please visit our website: wti.org/education/doctoral-programme/



Global Impact Association (GIA)

The Global Impact Association (GIA) aims to contribute to a better, more sustainable and inclusive system, by developing world-class trade professionals and scholars. The GIA offers several scholarships for talented students to pursue advanced master studies at the World Trade Institute (WTI).

Visit the official GIA website for more information:
global-impact-association.org

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Photo above: 2022-2023 class picture (MILE and TRAIL+) at Closing Ceremony

WTI-CWS Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy in India

The ninth edition of the Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy took place from 5-30 June 2023 on the premises of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi. Twenty-three participants from fourteen different law schools from all over India participated in this year's programme alongside legal practitioners.

The four-week Academy consisted of courses on Essentials of WTO Law and Policy, Investment Law, Trade and Intellectual Property Rights, Trade in Services, SPS and TBT, Agreement on Agriculture, the Law and Policy of Trade Remedies, Foreign Subsidies and

Electronic Commerce. Every week faculty members gave 'Trade Talks' in the evenings that were open to the public.

As in previous years, the Embassy of Switzerland in India hosted an event during the Academy for students, alumni and the trade community in Delhi. Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, WTI Director of Studies, delivered a lecture on "The Crisis of the Multilateral Trading System: Causes and Responses?". Prof. Pritam Banerjee, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies gave a presentation on "Trade Global Architecture for Trade: What Options for the Global South?".

The annual WTI-CWS Joint Academy was established by the WTI and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in 2014. Its objective is to enable law students and legal professionals in India to increase their knowledge of and exposure to issues pertinent to international trade regulation and economic governance. So far, around 200 Indian law students have been trained in the past years.

For more information on the WTI-CWS Joint Academy, please visit our website:
wti.org/education/short-courses/wti-cws-joint-academy/

Research

WTI researchers are active in the fields of economics, political science, and law and also explore transdisciplinary approaches. Our research upholds the highest standards of research quality and integrity. It aims to be both highly visible and relevant, and our research portfolio addresses some of the most pressing challenges of international economic cooperation. This includes increasing economic nationalism, and a visible backlash against globalisation, climate change, migration, and sustainability.

Many of the research projects at the WTI are transdisciplinary in nature: research questions are developed and inspired by debates in various disciplines, and the scientific approaches are guided by a multitude of research methods and traditions. Overall, our research projects are problem-driven, and our researchers are encouraged to work towards formulating policy recommendations based on their research findings.

The overall research profile of the institute for this period is summarised at the end of this chapter in Table 1: "Research projects overview: 2018-2025."

BATMODEL - Better agri-food trade modelling for policy analysis

This project aims to fill the gaps in current modelling tools for agricultural trade policy.

The BATModel Project is composed of 16 organizations and research institutes from 11 EU countries that aim to participate in a four-year study to create better models of cross-border agricultural trade, thereby helping decision-makers reach better multilateral and regional agreements.

The WTI team focusses on:

- Quantifying the impact of regulatory divergence on agri-food trade.
- Estimating cost and demand-side effects of non-discriminatory, quality-increasing technical measures.
- Introducing different impact channels of non-tariff measures to CGE-based scenarios.

In 2023

● **Workshop organization**

Modelling non-tariff measures in structural general equilibrium – Theory and applications, WTI, January 2023

● **Presentations**

"Structural Estimation of the Effects of Technical Non-Tariff Measures"

BATModel workshop (Bern, 19-20 January)

World Trade Forum (Florence, 13-14 October)

● **Publication**

Garcés, I., & Vogt, A. (2024). Global value chain integration and non-tariff measures. *Economics Letters*. 235 (February)

Garcés, I., & Vogt, A. (2024). Patterns of regulatory heterogeneity in international trade: Intensity, coverage and structure, *Review of International Economics* forthcoming

Project lead: Joseph Francois

Team: Octavio Fernández-Amador, Joseph Francois, Achim Vogt

batmodel.eu



CLI_M_CO2 - Framing Environmental Degradation, Human Mobility and Human Development as a Matter of Common Concern

This research project, led by Elisa Fornalé, has been part of an SNSF research professorship. It approaches international migration in the context of environmental degradation by conceptualising the issue as a 'common concern of humankind'.

The project principally relies on case studies conducted in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (e.g., Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati and New Zealand) to better understand the perspectives and interests of key stakeholders who are active in the fields of climate change, human mobility and human rights at the international, regional and local levels. Among other cases, the project critically describes the relocation of the Vunidogoloa village – the first climate change-induced community relocation in Fiji. This data collection based on interviews has been complemented by an in-depth analysis of the legal instruments regarding the environment and human mobility, as well as the conceptualisation of the doctrine of common concern of humankind.

In 2023

- Organisation of the International Conference "Sea level rise and its international law implications for legal certainty, stability and human rights" (9 June 2023), World Trade Institute, University of Bern
- Meeting of Mediterranean territories for climate action (22 - 23 June 2023), Tangier, Algeria

Project lead: Elisa Fornalé

climco2.org

Complexity and the Structure and Regulation of Trade and Investment

This project exploits a mix of new, soon-to-be-released, and soon-to-be-updated datasets providing a more comprehensive set of indicators on the structure of non-tariff measures affecting trade and investment flows, and the agreements that govern these flows.

The project's main objective is to better

understand the interaction between the geographic disintegration of production (i.e., the emergence of international production networks) on the one hand, and changes in the institutional architecture governing related trade and investment flows, on the other hand. Following the initial data mapping and extension exercise, the data will be applied to the following primary research questions: (i) what is the relationship between participation in global and regional production networks (value chains) and the political economy of trade and investment agreements; (ii) what impact do non-tariff measures have on participation in global and regional production networks; and (iii) to what extent can we attribute labour market dynamics (change in employment conditions) to changes in both geographic disintegration in production and related policy changes.

In 2023

- Hauser, S. (2023). Labor demand and household inequality effects on trade integration . Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) presentation, Bordeaux
- DESTA GVC Database updated: now includes indices to measure different aspects of value chain integration
- Hauser, S. & Elsig, M. (2023). Adapting to complexity: Evolution of Preferential Trade Agreements in the Modern Global Trade Landscape, Working Paper
- Hauser, S., Gutierrez, I., Winkler, C. (2023). Global Value Chains: Road to resilience. Working Paper
- Hauser, S. (2023) Mapping changes of input patterns: Introducing a new dataset. Working Paper and dataset to be published on Harvard dataverse

Project lead: Joseph Francois

Team: Valentino Desilvestro, Selina Hauser, Rodrigo Polanco, Patrick Tomberger

EDIT - Electronic Database of Investment Treaties

The Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT), is a systematic and comprehensive database on international investment agreements, including available texts in one single language (English) and format (XML).

During the implementation of the SNIS-funded project “Diffusion of International Law: A Textual Analysis of International Investment Agreements” (2015–2017), treaty texts were collected, and digitised and non-English texts were translated through machine translation software. Articles and paragraphs of the agreements were categorised using different techniques (automated labelling and based on a keyword dictionary, as well as on manual annotation).

In 2023

- During 2023, EDIT was updated to include all international investment agreements concluded until 31.12.2023. The database now also includes a selection of dashboards that allow users to investigate the content of investment treaties in novel ways. The dashboards help track trends in investment treaty-making, create country reports, compare country practices and identify areas of convergence and divergence. Together these dashboards form an analytics toolkit to support investment treaty negotiation, the reform of the investment regime, and research and analysis on past and current treaty practices.

Publications

Alschner, W. (2023). The Negotiation,

Diffusion, and Legacy of NAFTA Chapter 11: An Empirical Eulogy. *Canadian Yearbook of International Law/Annuaire Canadien De Droit International*, 1-40. doi:10.1017/cyl.2023.13

Polanco, R (2023). The Impact of Digitalization on International Investment Law: Are Investment Treaties Analogue or Digital?, *German Law Journal* 24, N° 3 (April 2023), pp. 574-88
<https://doi.org/10.1017/glj.2023.30>

Polanco R (2023). EU Investment Policy: Regional Convergence or International Standards?, in “Standardizing the World: EU Trade Policy and the Road to Convergence” (Francesco Duina & Crina Viju-Miljusevic, eds.), Oxford University Press, May 2023, Chapter 4, pp. 103-128

Thow, A.M., Alschner, W. & Aljunied, F. (2023) Public health clauses in international investment agreements: Sword or shield? *Global Policy*, 14, 260–269. Available from:
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13199>

Project lead: Manfred Elsig, Rodrigo Polanco and Wolfgang Alschner (University of Ottawa)

Team: Anqi Wang

edit.wti.org/document/investment-treaty/search

The WTI signs a MoU with the School of Law of the National University of Mongolia



GEM - Gender Equality in the Mirror

The pandemic made it clear how current structures of power risk perpetuating gender inequality and that the underrepresentation of women is no longer sustainable. Instead, it is imperative to understand the normative implications of participatory rights, how affirmative actions can foster and/or undermine participation, and how institutional practices still prevent equal participation by creating de facto inequality between men and women.

The GEM project's overall aim is to put forward a two-dimensional approach (internalization/externalization) to investigate potential 'building blocks of women's participation' at domestic and international level by making plain the need to strengthen their complementarity.

In 2023

- Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems (23 February 2023), Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women in Decision-Making Systems: A discussion on the Forthcoming Cedaw's General Recommendation (21 April 2023), OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague
- The Promise of Women's Equal Representation and Participation in International Decision-Making (12 July 2023), Palais des Nations, Geneva
- Book launch "Making trade work for women: key learnings from the World Trade Congress on Gender" (15 September 2023), WTO, Geneva
- Expert consultation: Perspectives on CEDAW's future General Recommendation No 40 (25 - 29 September 2023)
- Youth Trade Summit on Gender, WTI's nominee, Modesta Nsowaa-Adu was one of the 56 young professionals selected to attend
- **Key publication**
Fornalé E., Cristani F., Women's Empowerment and Its Limits: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspectives Toward Sustainable Progress, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023

Project lead: Elisa Fornalé

Team: Rahel Hirschi, Anca Alexandra David, Felicia Meyer, Riccarda Heepen, Modesta Nsowaa-Adu

womenandparticipation.org

Human Rights Justifications (HRJust)

HRJust aims to develop a theory of HRJ and a process for Systematic Ongoing Civil Society Engagement as a tool for a gender and intersectional inclusive Civil Society engagement. HRJust is to identify gaps in human rights regulations and protection, serving as underpinning data for our recommendations to EU in support of a multinational human rights system and promotion of transnational democratic governance. HRJust will also identify geopolitical elements that influence States' use of HRJ. This will be done through 5 countries: Sweden, Finland, Taiwan, India and Ukraine, through three actions: human rights dialogue, inclusive democratic participations, and protection of human rights defenders, and operationalised through three themes: Covid, Migration and Climate.

Launched in March 2023.

Project lead: University of Gothenburg (Sweden)

WTI, University of Bern Team member: Prof. Elisa Fornalé

General equilibrium econometrics and modeling for sustainable development (GEE-metrics)

This project aims at improving the estimates of the parameters governing the dynamics of multi-country, multi-sector general equilibrium models used in the analysis of energy and climate change policies to obtain more reliable predictions of the effects of such policies. The project uses advanced econometric modeling to estimate the parameters targeted and incorporates the estimates obtained to a multi-country, multi-sector general equilibrium model.

The expected output will be (i) a new dataset of energy usage disaggregated at the level of

country and sector; (ii) a new set of parameters estimates governing the energy and carbon emissions accounts in a general equilibrium model which are key to policy experiments related to energy and carbon dioxide emissions; and (iii) a quantification of the economic, environmental and social effects of the implementation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism on developed and developing economies.

Project lead: Octavio Fernández-Amador

Team: David Bauman, Martin Jehli

Heterogeneity - Regulatory Heterogeneity in International Trade: From Measures to Systems

This project has focused on the impact that differences in regulation can have on gains from trade and investment, and on the incentives for and benefits from trade agreements that address such differences. This has included both the development of unique data for benchmarking cross-country differences in regulation, and empirical analysis exploiting the data developed within the project. The research has been conducted in the context of dissertation research for three doctoral students that will defend their thesis in 2024.

The relevance of the research results of the project includes: (i) contributions to the literature on the trade cost incidence of regulatory (dis) similarity in terms of definition, including accounting for country-specific measure interdependence; (ii) quantifying the effects of regulatory heterogeneity on trade flows in an empirical gravity framework ; (iii) advancing an otherwise thin literature on regulatory heterogeneity and its relevance for trade policy outcomes ; and (iv) improving the transparency of trade policy scenario design for ex-ante impact assessments, and consequent traceability of results. In terms of social relevance, these outcomes enhance the prospect for better design of trade agreements to enhance the positive outcomes of such treaties (reduced unintended regulatory costs) without sacrificing regulatory objectives.

● Papers/chapters in working paper version

Patterns of regulatory heterogeneity in international trade: Intensity, coverage and structure, Irene Garcés and Achim Vogt

Regulatory heterogeneity of technical NTMs and PTA provisions: Trade effects at and behind the border, Achim Vogt

PTA determinants: The effect of regulatory differences in international trade, Joseph Francois, Irene Garcés, Selina Hauser, and Achim Vogt

Modeling heterogeneous direct and third-country effects of the trade policy network, Octavio Fernandez-Amador and Irene Garcés

● Papers/chapters published

Garcés, I., & Vogt, A. (2024). Global value chain integration and non-tariff measures. *Economics Letters*, 111518

Garcés, I., & Vogt, A. (2024). Patterns of regulatory heterogeneity in international trade: Intensity, coverage and structure, *Review of International Economics* forthcoming

● Awards

Award to Irene Garcés for the best research paper presented by a young scholar Spanish Economics and Finance Association XXIV Conference on international economics

Project lead: Joseph Francois

Team: Achim Vogt, Irene Garcés Iriarte, Selina Hauser

MATS - Making Agricultural Trade Sustainable

MATS aims to identify key leverage points for changes in agricultural trade policy that foster the positive and reduce the negative impacts of trade on sustainable development and human rights. Particular attention is paid to SDG1 No Poverty, SDG2 Zero Hunger and SDG3 Good Health and Well-being, as well as SDG6 Clean Water, SDG13 Climate Action and SDG15 Life on Land. The focus is on improving the governance, design and implementation of trade practices, regimes and policies at national, EU, African and global levels.

Since 2021, the WTI has been one of the 14 partners of this EU-funded Horizon 2020 programme, ending in 2024. Within this consortium, WTI leads research for 2 discussion papers:

- The political economy of trade regimes
- The feasibility of changes in trade relations and instruments

In 2023

- **Sub-Project “Repairing Broken Food Trade Routes Ukraine – Africa”:** The new WTI program was created following a call from the EU Commission in March 2022 for all EU-funded research projects to study the war of aggression and to include Ukrainian researchers in their projects.

In this sub-project (ending in December 2023) we focus on Ukrainian investment and production levels receding with negative market share developments under the Black Sea Corridor Agreement for African cereal imports from Ukraine and Russia vs from competitors in countries with production subsidies, including Poland’s and Hungary’s WTO-incompatible import restrictions.

Project lead: University of Helsinki

Team: Christian Häberli, Bogdan Kostetsky (Kyiv)

sustainable-agri-trade.eu

NRP 73 - Switzerland’s Sustainability Footprint: Economic and Legal Challenges

In this project we have created and studied new data on global sustainability inventories with a focus on the effectiveness and limitations of alternative policies aimed at sustainable production-consumption patterns and related socio-economic impacts.

Overall, the project has focused on a major set of complex, contemporary policy challenges. Initial objectives have included the following:

- developing new measures of sustainability footprint targets for the Swiss economy (as part of a public access database);
- extending the literature on the effectiveness of alternative tax-based and voluntary instruments in meeting these targets, including projection analysis of usage trends;

- and addressing treaty-based constraints (such as those arising from Swiss WTO Membership) on use of alternative instruments. The third point then also serves to identify potential scope for international action and initiatives on the part of Switzerland.

Following these objectives, research has included modelling of natural resource inventories used in production and consumption, as well as trade-related linkages between embodied emissions flows and energy policies. Legal research under the project included the study of Swiss-based private sustainability standards with environmental requirements, as well as the consistency of trade-related climate taxes with international law. The project team has also defined and quantified ‘sustainability footprints’ based on updated and projected (forward-looking scenario-based) multi-region input-output analysis.

In 2023

- **Publication:** Fernández-Amador, O., Francois, J.F., Oberdabernig, D.A., Tomberger, P. 2023. Energy footprints and the international trade network: A new dataset. Is the European Union doing it better? *Ecological Economics*, Volume 204, Part A, February 2023, 107635

Project lead: Joseph Francois

Team: Doris Oberdabernig, Ilari Espa, Patrick Tomberger, Octavio Fernández-Amador, Brigitta Imeli

nfp73.ch/en/projects/switzerland-s-sustainability-footprint

Policy Uncertainty And Market Access in Services

This project is focused on uncertainty in market access for services trade and investment.

The project will develop analytical (and empirical) frameworks that build on the decision under uncertainty literature. This allows for the incorporation of market access uncertainty into the modern frameworks of mode selection by firms and structural gravity based models of trade, following from the use of certainty equivalence (i.e. CE, or the mean and variance components of trade costs linked to non-tariff measures or NTMs).

The CE framework for NTM-related trade cost uncertainty in services will be used to examine the impact, analytically and empirically, on choice of modes of market entry for foreign service providers (direct trade vs. affiliate sales).

Another part of the research program, again working from a CE representation of trade costs in services, will focus on structural gravity estimates of the trade costs linked to policy uncertainty. The modified gravity framework will be used to both estimate trade costs linked to policy uncertainty at sector level, and then to estimate the impact of reducing policy uncertainty with a global value chain (GVC)-based computational model of trade and production. The same data and model will also be used to examine the impact of policy uncertainty in services on the structure of GVCs.

The research plan is thus structured around four research questions:

- How does market access uncertainty in services affect the decision of firms to enter a market, and the modes of entry chosen (direct trade versus establishment)?
- How can we include market access uncertainty in structural gravity based modelling of services trade?
- What are the trade and welfare effects of improved market access security in services?
- How does market access uncertainty in services affect supply chain structures?

In 2023, we onboarded the team and have officially kickstarted the project and plan to complete the initial research for the first few work packages in 2024.

Project lead: Joseph Francois

Team: Kirti Jhunjunwala, Roudayna El Chammaa, Miriam Manchin

TRADEM - Trade and Democracy

The TRADEM project studies the interconnections between trade agreements and democracy. We ask principally: how do trade agreements affect democratic institutions and processes?

The project's main objective is to develop new and test existing arguments related to the types of outside-in effects through trade agreements that lead to positive or negative

effects for various types of democracy parameters. The project studies the conditions under which treaties are democracy-enhancing and compare these to conditions that are democracy-hindering. Providing better data and exploring and testing more nuanced causal relationships will help policy-makers better understand the observable democratization effects of trade agreements.

In 2023

- We finalized our manual coding of over 100 agreements which were then scaled up to the entire set of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) as listed in DESTA using supervised machine learning. We code democracy-enhancing provisions that directly promote democracy as well as obligations ranging from individual rights, and provisions to increase transparency and inclusiveness to commitments related to policy space
- We carried out field studies in South Africa, Chile and Peru to study how these democracy provisions are implemented in these respected countries

Working Papers

Roux M. (2023). The Balance of Power and Design of Democracy-Related Clauses in Trade Agreements. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Los Angeles

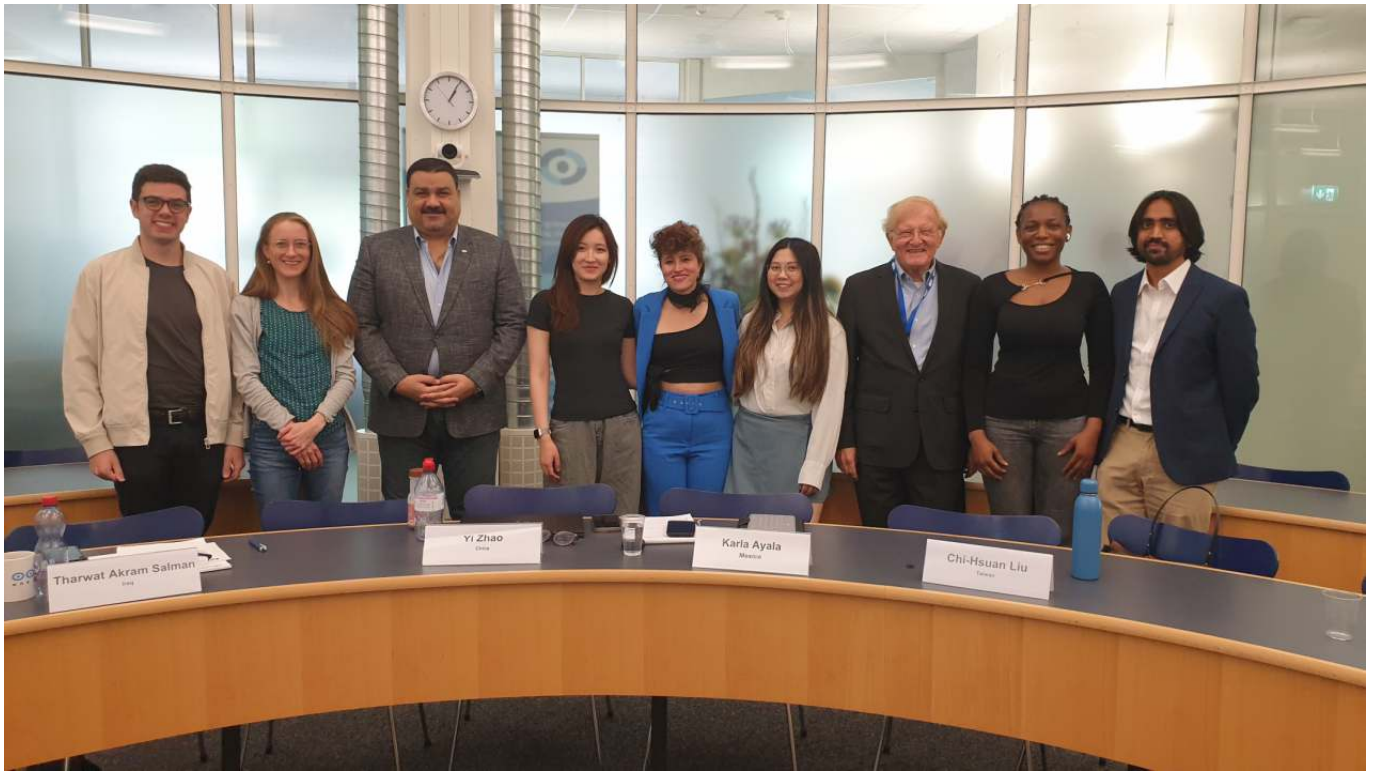
Elsig, M., Ganeson, K., Lugg, A. and Roux M. (2023). Trade Agreements and the Design of Democracy-related Provisions: The Creation of a New Data Set

Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association, Glasgow

Adin, S. (2023). The Impact of Trade Agreements on Democracy: A Case Study on South Africa. Master's Thesis Submitted at the University of Bern

Project lead: Manfred Elsig

Team: Kirthana Ganeson, Andrew Lugg, Marine Roux, Shaina Adin



▲ The Summer Academy course Intellectual Property Law and Technology Transfer



▲ GEG Seminar "Globalisation in Turbulent Times" with EBRD's Chief Economist, Beata Javorcik

Five year research projects funding overview: 2018-2023

Project Title	Funding /Lead (L), Co-Lead (CL)	Time period	Responsibility	Project Budget
Common Concern ¹	SNF, L	2015-18	Thomas Cottier	CHF 520,000
MCCM	SDC	2017-18	Thomas Cottier	CHF 50,000
Doc-CH- Marietta Angeli	ProDoc SNF	2017-19	Manfred Elsig	CHF 292,000
Big DATA and Trade Agreements (together with the University of Lucerne)	SNF, NRP75, CL	2017-20	Manfred Elsig	CHF 183,258
EDIT: The Electronic Database of Investment Treaties	World Bank, L	2018-20	Manfred Elsig	CHF 25,000
Global Value Chains And Provisions In PTAs	OECD, L	2018-20	Manfred Elsig	CHF 70,000
Marie-Curie Fellowship, Aydin Yildirim	EU, H2020	2019-22	Manfred Elsig	€ 200,000
Trade and Democracy	SNF	2021-25	Manfred Elsig	CHF 599,132
ID Grant	UNIBE	2021-21	Manfred Elsig	CHF 89,500
Economic Globalization Under Threat (seed money)	SNF (SERI)	2021-21	Manfred Elsig	CHF 27,420
MATS	EU, H2020	2021-24	Manfred Elsig /Christian Häberli	€ 157,100
General equilibrium econometrics for sustainable development ¹	SNF	2022-26	Fernandez-Amador	CHF 184,049
CLISEL Climate Security with Local Authorities ¹	EU, H2020, L	2016-19	Elisa Fornalé	€ 851,000
SNF Förderprofessur Elisa Fornalé, Common Concern ¹	SNF	2017-21	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 906,215
SNF Professorship Prolongation 2 years	SNF	2021-23	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 437,539
Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women's Participation at International Level	SNF	2021-23	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 346,000
Trade and gender	UniBE	2022	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 0
Practices of Human Right Justification	EU, SERI	2023-26	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 644,736
Productivity, Non-Tariff Measures and Openness (PRONTO) ²	EU, FP7, L	2014-18	Joseph Francois	€ 2,400,000
R4D Employment Effects ²	SNF/DEZA, L	2014-18	Joseph Francois	CHF 1,950,000
Complexity and the Structure and Regulation of Trade and Investment	SNF, L	2017-22	Joseph Francois	CHF 465,220
Switzerland's Sustainability Footprint: Economic and Legal Challenges ¹	SNF, NRP73, L	2017-22	Joseph Francois	CHF 863,950
Realizing Europe's Soft Power in External Cooperation and Trade (RESPECT) ¹	EU, H2020	2018-21	Joseph Francois	€ 400,000
Regulatory Heterogeneity in International Trade: From Measures to Systems	SNF, L	2018-22	Joseph Francois	CHF 636,238
BATMODEL - better agri-food trade modelling for policy analysis	EU, H2020	2020-24	Joseph Francois	€ 290,000
Policy Uncertainty And Market Access in Services	SNF	2022-27	Joseph Francois	CHF 466,018
SNF Förderprofessur Damian Raess, BRICS	SNF	2017-21	Damian Raess	€ 1,699,802
SNF Professorship Prolongation 1 year	SNF	2021-22	Damian Raess	CHF 300,700
Labor standards compliance and buyer-supplier linkages in global supply chains	SNF	2021-23	Damian Raess	CHF 242,848
SNF Iryna Bogodova	SNF	2022-23	Peter van den Bossche	CHF 92,500
SNF Iryna Bogodova Follow-up	SNF	2023-24	Peter van den Bossche	CHF 60,000
Other/smaller projects 2018-2023	various	2018-23	various	CHF 598,856
Totals				
Project budget total		All years		CHF 16,718,211
of which sustainability/climate		All years		CHF 5,251,589
Total WTI funding for 2018-23 ³		2018-23		CHF 8,870,100
Annual Average WTI 2018-23 ³		2018-23		CHF 1,774,020

¹ Projects on sustainability and climate policy.

² These are research consortium grants, where the WTI served as the lead institution. The approximate WTI budget share of these projects is 35%.

³ Excludes networking funding for partners.

Outreach

The WTI Network

The WTI cooperates with leading universities and institutes through memoranda of understanding and collaborative projects, carrying out joint research and teaching programmes. Students pre-selected by WTI partner universities benefit from a preferential tuition fee for the MILE and TRAIL+ programmes. In 2023, the WTI concluded new agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru; the Universidad de las Americas, Ecuador; the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute; the Fudan University Law School, Shanghai; the University of International Business and Economics - China Institute for WTO Studies; the Xi'an Jiaotong University - School of Law; the National University of Mongolia, School of Law; and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

Prof. Elisa Fornalé addressing the audience at the conference "Sea level rise and its international law implications for legal certainty, stability and human rights"

Off-Campus Teaching and Capacity Building Programmes

Besides its graduate programmes, the WTI also organises tailor-made courses and workshops for policymakers and government officials, as well as courses for students at other universities. These programmes range from highly individualised consultative workshops to practice-oriented courses on applied trade regulation or policy, and academic seminars on trade policy modelling and principles. In 2023, the three-year project with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan was continued. The project consists of the design of a WTO law course and capacity-building activities, led by Prof. Peter Van den Bossche and coordinated by Dr Rodrigo Polanco. A team of internal and external WTI faculty members conducted several training courses at UWED. For Member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the WTI conducted courses on trade negotiations and on trade in services. A course on dumping, anti-dumping measures, subsidies, countervailing, and safeguard measures was organised for the Department for International Trade of the United Kingdom.



In July 2023, the ninth edition of the four-week Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy, co-organised with the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was offered in New Delhi. Prof. Peter Van den Bossche gave three short courses on “Balancing Trade with Non-Trade Concerns” in the context of the Professional Diploma in International Trade Policy, offered by the International Trade Institute in collaboration with the WTI. Jointly with the University Göttingen and the Università Svizzera Italiana, the WTI organised three online workshops as part of the webinar series on “Climate Change and International Economic Law: Where are we headed?” Prof. Peter Van den Bossche participated in the 2023 Dispute Settlement Symposium, hosted and organised by the Korean Society of International Economic Law (KSIEL) and sponsored by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea.

In 2023 Prof. Peter Van den Bossche was also the Tsai Wan-Tsai Visiting Professor of International Law at National Taiwan University (NTU). He taught courses for master’s students and gave lectures at the College of Law of NTU, Taipei, as well as at Bocconi University, Milan; City Law School, University of London; College of Europe, Bruges; LUISS University, Rome; National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei; Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar, Quito; Universidad de las Americas (UDLA) in Quito; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan; University of Geneva; and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent.

Policy Research

The WTI conducts applied research for a range of public and private institutions in the fields of international trade and investment. WTI experts are actively engaged in providing advice on topics such as impact assessment of preferential trade agreements, ‘gap analysis’ of investment laws and policies, WTO reform and accession. WTI researchers contributed to various reports such as the report on the project “Broken Food Trade Routes Ukraine-Africa” funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 programme “Making Agricultural Trade Sustainable” (Dr Christian Häberli). Prof. Peter Van den Bossche was one of the authors of the report on “Principles of International Law Relevant for Consideration in the Design and Implementation of Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies”. The report is a product



▲
Launch of the 9th
edition of the WTI-CWS
Joint Academy
in New Delhi

of an international legal experts group convened by the Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS), a partnership of the Graduate Institute and the UN Environment Programme. WTI non-residential fellow Sebastian Klotz introduced a new data set in ‘Global Policy’ based on the question “Who Drives the International Standardisation of Telecommunication and Digitalisation?”.

Prof. Peter Van den Bossche was appointed as a panellist for the WTO dispute case “European Union – Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties on Stainless Steel Cold-Rolled Flat Products from Indonesia” (DS616).

Dissemination

The WTI participated in local, national, and international policy discussions and debates. It also regularly organised lectures in the context of the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and the WTI’s Brown Bag Series. These lectures were open to the public and attracted considerable attention.

The WTI’s management and researchers have also been regularly involved in debates and interviews with Swiss and international media. The relevant articles can be found in the media section of the WTI’s website.

As in previous years, the WTI co-organised the annual **World Trade Forum** with the European University Institute in Florence. The conference took place in Florence with the topic “Non-economic Objectives and International Trade?”.

At the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, the WTI was present in panels and at a book launch. SNSF Prof. Elisa Fornalé, member of the WTI faculty, is one of the authors of the WTO’s book on “Making Trade Work for Women”, which was

Sponsorship

The WTI sponsored the:

- **John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly EMC2)**

The winning teams of the regional round and final oral round were awarded scholarships to the WTI Summer or Winter Academy. The best orator at the final oral round was awarded a full tuition waiver for the TRAIL+ (LLM) programme at the WTI.

- **Gujarat International Moot Court Competition**

The winning team was awarded scholarships to the WTI Summer or Winter Academy. Several WTI alumni supported the Moot Court as panellists.

- **Model WTO**

The Model WTO is the biggest and most complete simulation of WTO's Ministerial negotiations in the world. The members of the winning team receive a one-week tuition fee waiver for the WTI Winter or Summer Academy.

officially launched at the WTO Public Forum 2023. WTI alumna Modesta Nsowaa-Adu was one of the 56 young professionals selected to attend the WTO's first **Youth Summit on Gender** held in Geneva. Prof. Peter Van den Bossche participated at the WTO Public Forum in a panel on Trade-Related Climate Measures: Principles for Design & Implementation.

Prof. Thomas Cottier, founder, and former Managing Director of the WTI, and Mr B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, former Commerce Secretary of India, and MILE alumnus, led a conversation on international trade at the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi, which was attended by high-level representatives of diplomatic missions in India.

The Swiss Embassy in Morocco invited Prof. Elisa Fornalé as Swiss representative to the 3rd MEDCOP Climate Conference on Gender and Climate Change in Tangier, the most important meeting of Mediterranean territories for climate action.

Dr Iryna Bogdanova, postdoctoral researcher at the WTI, gave a presentation at the University of Copenhagen on the topic of "Economic Sanctions against Russia: the End of the 'Wandel durch Handel' Narrative".

Prof. Van den Bossche gave a presentation at the Association des Juristes de Droit International Économique (AJDIE) in Paris.

Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, jointly with Prof. Em Giorgio Sacerdoti, Prof. James Bacchus, and Prof. Weihuan Zhou participated in the webinar "National Security, the Rule of Law, and the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism: Comparing the US, EU, and Chinese Approach", organised by SIDI DIEcon, University Bocconi in Milan, University of Bologna, Re-Globe and co-funded by the European Union.

For more information, please visit the outreach section of our website:
wti.org/outreach/tailor-made-courses/
and wti.org/outreach/network/

Guest lecturers

Global Economic Governance

Seminar Series

- Ohio Omiunu, Reader in International Economic Law, University of Kent Law School
- Beata Javorcik, Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Amb. Didier Chambovey, Head of the Swiss Permanent Mission to the WTO and EFTA in Geneva
- Thomas Bernauer, Professor of Political Science, ETH Zurich
- Amb. José Valencia, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the WTO, UNCTAD and other international economic organizations
- Natalie Sleeman, First Counsellor, Head of the Trade and Economic Affairs Section, Delegation of the European Union to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein
- Esteban Mezzano, General Counsel Corporate Operations & Sustainability, Nestlé
- Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, Interim Co-President and Co-CEO, Vice-President, Global Strategies and Managing Director, Europe, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Alumni Talk

- Arpit Bhutani (MILE 12), Co-Founder, Circular Innovation Lab ApS
- Tetyana Payosova (PhD alumna), Senior Associate, Van Bael & Bellis' Geneva office
- Jean-Philippe Herbert (MILE 17), Corporate Counsel, European Trade, Amazon
- Maxine Kennett (MILE 2), Global Head of Trade, Hitachi Energy
- Wakako Oshima, (MILE 7), Founder and CEO of Asteri Group (consulting firm)
- Marina Foltea (MILE 4), Founder and Managing Director, Trade Pacts (consulting firm)
- Rishab Raturi (MILE 15), Associate Program Officer, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

▶ H. E. Ambassador Simon Manley CMG, Permanent Representative of the UK to the WTO, speaking at the Closing Ceremony



Events

Every year, the World Trade Institute organises and takes part in several online and in-person events. In 2023, although encouraging on-site participation at all times, the WTI continued offering a hybrid solution for most events, so participants abroad could join online.

World Trade Forum

In 2023, the annual World Trade Forum was held in Florence (Italy). This gathering brings together trade policy researchers and practitioners to discuss recent global trade and investment development. It is our annual flagship conference, co-organised with the Global Governance Programme at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Sciences (European University Institute, Florence).

The theme of the 2023 World Trade Forum was “Non-economic objectives and international trade”. It focused on the use of trade policies to pursue non-economic goals and recent developments and prospects for sustaining multilateral trade cooperation in a world characterised by rising geopolitical and geo-economic rivalry and existential threats.

With a mix of plenary panel discussions and presentations of research, subjects that were addressed included: trade and democracy, developments in the area of international dispute settlement, environmental challenges in times of geopolitical tensions, the impact of sanctions on supply chains, making trade & investment policy more inclusive, digital trade policies, data regulation and trade in services, the design and effects of sustainability standards and supply chain due diligence requirements, evidence on the effectiveness of pursuing non-economic objectives through trade agreements, and research on trade and development in Africa and Least Developed Countries.

More info at wti.org/wtf/



Global Economic Governance (GEG) Seminar Series

This high-level series included prominent speakers in the field of international law and governance. Officially a compulsory course for all MILE and TRAIL+ students, this series consists of a number of stand-alone seminars on different aspects of global economic governance. These 1,5- or 2-hour-long seminars are taught by leading experts in the field. The purpose is to allow students to benefit from the insights and personal experiences of the experts invited. Students learn to critically comment on an expert presentation on topics related to global economic governance. In fact, when a student attends 80% of the lectures, s/he can obtain a grade and 1 ECTS credit by submitting a 2000/2500-word essay critically commenting on one of the experts' GEG Seminar Series presentations.

Alumni Talks

For the second year in a row, the World Trade Institute has invited MILE and TRAIL alumni back in Bern to share their experiences, careers, learnings and current projects. The alumni talk about their areas of expertise and share their journey to inspire the WTI students on how to approach the next steps in their careers. Check the nearby box to see the entire list of speakers for 2023.

GEG Seminar with Esteban Mezzano, General Counsel Corporate Operations & Sustainability at Nestlé

2023 Closing Ceremony



In addition to the above, many other workshops and conferences took place. Of interest:

- **Workshop: Modelling non-tariff measures in structural general equilibrium – Theory and applications**, January

As part of the BATMODEL research project, the workshop discussed the proliferation of non-tariff measures (NTMs), the diverse motivations underlying their use by governments and how international trade policy analysts model NTMs to evaluate their effects.

- **Promoting Sustainable Investment and Green Trade: the Swiss Perspective**, February

Prof. Manfred Elsig, WTI's Deputy Managing Director, spoke at this conference on sustainable investment and green trade. The conference was part of a new series organised by the OECD, the Geneva Trade Platform and CCIG to present innovative solutions for attracting sustainable foreign direct investment and promoting green trade on a country-level.

- **Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems**, February

Prof. Elisa Fornalé, Swiss National Science Foundation Professor at the World Trade Institute, moderated this workshop, organised by the GQUAL Campaign, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and the GEM project. The workshops contributed to the new General Recommendation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the issue of women representation in decision-making.

- **Presentation of the book: Women's Empowerment and its Limits: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspectives Toward Sustainable Progress**, April

Prof. Elisa Fornalé presented her edited book of the same title at an event at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, Czech Republic.

- **Workshop: Modelling international trade and climate challenges**, April

This workshop, part of the SNF project "General Equilibrium Econometrics and Modeling for Sustainable Growth", discussed the new challenges posed by recent advances in climate and economic modelling, as tools to better understand the implications of policy choices for tackling climate change.

please see the next page for the rest of this list ►

Closing Ceremony

In July, the MILE23 and TRAIL+ 6 students completed all of their coursework. To mark this achievement, the WTI organised a closing ceremony. In addition to the master's students and their families, the closing ceremony was attended by trade officials and diplomats from Bern and Geneva as well as members of the Bernese academic community. The keynote speaker was H. E. Ambassador Simon Manley CMG, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the WTO, UN and Other International Organisations (Geneva). He talked about "Why Rules Matter: the Importance of Free and Open Trade in a Contested World".

Class representatives Claudia Rosas (MILE 23) and Atharv Joshi (TRAIL+ 6) gave their cohort's farewell speech.

During the ceremony, the former Director of Studies, and founder of the WTI, Prof. Thomas Cottier presented the Thomas Cottier Award. This is annually awarded to one WTI student for the best thesis submitted and was established to honour Prof. Emeritus Thomas Cottier for both his leadership and vision. The award went to Faith Abraham (TRAIL+ 5) and Gabriela Garcia Merchan (MILE 22).

Brown Bag seminars

The WTI hosted 14 Brown Bag seminars organised by a motivated group of PhD students. PhD students and researchers from all over Switzerland and neighbouring countries presented their studies, publications and research results. Speakers from Switzerland came from the University of Geneva, The Geneva Graduate Institute, University of Zurich, Università della Svizzera Italiana (Lugano). Further away, speakers came from UC Louvain (Belgium), University of Konstanz (Germany), Politecnico di Milano and University of Turin (Italy), Queen's University in Belfast (UK), and even as far as the University of British Columbia (Canada) and Singapore Management University.

For a full list of our events in 2023, please visit our website: wti.org/outreach/events/

- **Inauguration of the Sacerdoti / Feliciano Collection of WTO Appellate Body Papers 1995-2009**, May

The World Trade Institute officially opened this important collection of WTO Appellate Body Papers 1995-2009, now hosted on our premises. For the occasion, we were honoured to welcome Prof. Sacerdoti, Emeritus Professor of International Law at Bocconi University and former Member and Chair of the WTO Appellate Body (2001-2009).

- **Event in India: Trade Talk at the Swiss Embassy in Delhi**, June

On the occasion of the 9th Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy, the Embassy of Switzerland in India and the World Trade Institute organised an exclusive event in Delhi. The Ambassador of Switzerland to India, Prof. Van den Bossche (WTI's Director of Studies), Prof. Banerjee (Head of the Centre of WTO Studies) intervened and debated on trade issues. It was also the occasion to launch the Indian Alumni Chapter of the WTI Alumni Association.

- **Sea level rise and its international law implications for legal certainty, stability and human rights**, June

Prof. Elisa Fornalé (World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland), as Co-rapporteur of the together with Prof. Davor Vidas (Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway), Chair of the ILA Committee on International Law and Sea Level Rise, organised an important conference on the consequences for international law of sea level rise. The topic is part of Switzerland's thematic priorities on the UN Security Council (2023/2024).



- **Climate Change and International Economic Law webinars**, November

The World Trade Institute, in collaboration with the University of Göttingen and the Università della Svizzera Italiana, held a series of three webinars on trade law and climate change. Several speakers were engaged and dozens of participants attended online.

- **Seminar: 20 Years Chile-EFTA Free Trade Agreement**, December

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Free Trade Agreement between EFTA and Chile, the Embassy of Chile to Switzerland and the World Trade Institute, partnered for a high-level seminar. Several high-level guests, Ambassadors and government officials from Switzerland and EFTA member states attended the event.

Alumni Talk Wakako Oshima (MILE 7) on "Our Planet in 100 Years – Sustainability and Trade"



Prof. Elsig speaking at the Seminar 20 Years Chile-EFTA Free Trade Agreement

Alumni

As of 2023, the WTI alumni and student body was comprised of 654 current and former students from more than 110 countries, including the 25 enrolled in the MILE 24/TRAIL+7 programme. Many of WTI's MILE and TRAIL+ alumni have launched highly successful careers following graduation – often starting with an internship at an international organisation in Geneva. Around 20% of our MILE and TRAIL+ alumni work for international organisations (such as the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, ACWL, the World Bank, UNECA and UNECE). Approximately 25% are employed by their respective governments (frequently in trade, foreign or economic ministries). Roughly 40% work in the private sector (e.g. Deloitte, On, Sidera Consult, ON, EY and Price Waterhouse Coopers), for international law firms (including Van Bael & Bellis, White & Case, Webber Wentzel, VVGB Law, and Hausfeld), or as independent consultants. Some 5% are employed by non-governmental organisations (e.g. CUTS International, World Economic Forum, and WWF) and industry associations (e.g. Eurometaux and CELCAA), and a further 10% of graduates pursue an academic career (e.g. the London School of Economics, Foreign Trade University in Hanoi and University of Göttingen).

The WTI takes pride in the careers of its alumni and makes efforts to maintain close relationships with them through regular communication and events. In the past few years, several alumni networking meetings have taken place in different parts of the world. In 2023, two alumni get-togethers were organised in Geneva where current MILE & TRAIL+ students and alumni had opportunities to meet. Further alumni meetings took place in Brussels, Delhi and Lima. The Embassy of Switzerland in India organised an event at their premises for WTI alumni and students in June 2023. On Prof. Cottier's visit to Delhi for teaching in the WTI-CWS Joint Academy the India Regional Chapter of the WTI Alumni Association organised a get-together. In Lima, a group of Peruvian WTI alumni met with Prof. Van den Bossche on his trade related tour around Latin America.

The WTI continued its Alumni Talk series in 2023, which brought alumni back to Bern to share their career experiences and insights on topics around their professional expertise with the MILE and TRAIL+ students. Many of the WTI's alumni also represent the WTI as panellists in international trade law moot court competitions such as the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition or the Gujarat International Moot Court.

Since 2015, the WTI, through its alumni network, has organised a mentoring programme in which alumni support current students to establish themselves in their professional lives. The mentoring programme is seen as a core element of the WTI's alumni



strategy, as it links current students with alumni on a thematic or regional basis. In the past years, 101 mentoring groups have been formed as part of the WTI's mentoring project. Both mentors and mentees have found their interactions very valuable.

The WTI Alumni Association (WTIAA) aims to connect former MILE/TRAIL+ and PhD alumni. It is a platform for cooperation, exchange, networking, and events, supporting alumni, students and the WTI alike. The WTIAA India Regional Chapter was launched at the Embassy of Switzerland in India in June 2023 at an event for WTI alumni and WTI-CWS Joint Academy students. Other WTIAA Regional Chapters are the Africa Chapter, the Brussels Chapter, the Geneva Chapter and the South America Chapter. Setting up further Regional and Thematic Chapters is planned for 2024. In September 2023 the WTIAA held the second elections for its new Executive Committee, which is now composed as follows: President: Mr Harsh Hiroo Gursahani, MILE 11; Vice-President: Ms Wakako Oshima, MILE 7; Secretary: Ms Esha Sandhu, TRAIL+3; Treasurer: Mr Murat Ayber, MILE 3; Outreach Officer: Ms Gabriela Garcia Merchan, MILE 22.

Every year, the WTI awards the Thomas Cottier Award for Best Thesis. This award was established to honour the WTI's founder and former Managing Director Prof. em. Thomas Cottier's leadership and vision. In 2023 Gabriela Garcia Merchan (MILE 22) received the Thomas Cottier Award for the Best Thesis for her Master's thesis "Agricultural Subsidies in the Economy of Ecuador - An Assessment of Impact Through CGE Modelling" and Faith Abel Abraham (TRAIL+5) for his Master's thesis "The Establishment of a Multilateral Investment Court: Lessons Learned from the WTO".

For more information about our alumni, including recent interviews with our alumni, please visit our website: wti.org/alumni



▲
WTI alumnus Dr. Santanu Mukherjee, launching his book: Patent Exhaustion and International Trade Regulation



Financials

Financial account for 2023 (in CHF, rounded)

INCOME	
External funds	
Programme income	1,630,000
Other income (services)	100,000
Total external funds	1,730,000
University funds	
Contributions to office rent ¹	0
Contributions to personnel expenditure	1,817,000
Contributions to operating expenses	231,000
Total university funds	2,048,000
Total Income	3,778,000

EXPENDITURE	
Personnel	
Salaries	2,495,000
Social benefits	500,000
Total personnel	2,995,000
Other Expenditure	
Office rent ¹	0
Office operating expenses	628,000
Travel	141,000
Miscellaneous	3,000
Total other expenditure	772,000
Accruals	-11,000
Total Expenditure	3,778,000

The WTI is constituted as a center of competence within the University of Bern, and the financial accounts are audited internally and externally. For accounting purposes, the University of Bern applies the accounting standard Swiss GAAP FER. A full overview, including the most recent financial positions, is available as part of the University's annual report.

¹ Paid directly by the university administration.



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