

# WTI Brown Bag Seminar

5 April 2022, 12:30 - 13:30pm (Hybrid Event)



Venue: Anna Nussbaum Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

\*To join virtually via Zoom, please use this [link](#) or with Meeting ID: 869 1770 1444 (Passcode: 823706)

## Maritime Connectivity and International Trade: Distance in a Globalized World

### Abstract:

This paper provides a novel theoretical and empirical discussion on observed spatial patterns in global trade relations. The argument of this paper is that a state's access to international sea routes is an important determinant of a state's ability to conduct global economic relations. Building off new ideas of transportation in the field of geography, this paper presents a discussion of how we should think about the distance between states in a globalized world. I use new data from the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development to understand a state's connectivity in global maritime pathways. Using this data, I discuss how global trade relations suffer from structurally determined spatial biases. Past research has already discussed the presence of spatial patterns in trade data, but research has yet to theoretically examine why these patterns exist and look the way they do in modern relations. I show that trade through maritime activity create violations of IID assumptions in many models and can lead to spatial biases in understanding global economic activity. Following this, I use spatial modeling techniques to account for these biases and discuss how the maritime industry creates important geographic connections between states. These connections should be thought of in similar ways to how economic geography scholars view distance. Given the temporal variation in these connections and the possibility of them being influenced by domestic and international institutions, IPE scholars are well suited to study how the maritime industry connects states. By understanding the determinants of spatial patterns, scholars can theorize about how these patterns manifest in different circumstances and affect different state's abilities to trade and engage in other interstate activities

### Biography of the speaker:



**Dr Joseph Bommarito**  
**WTI, University of Bern**

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Dr. Joseph Bommarito is a Postdoc researcher at the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern working on the project "BRICS globalization and labor protections in advanced and emerging economies" with Dr. Damian Raess. He graduated from Florida State University in 2021 with a Ph.D. in Political Science focusing on international political economy. Joseph's research focuses on global supply chains and answering questions of how developing states can better connect their economies to large developed states, as well as looking at the political and economic effects of global supply chains on local communities. Joseph uses quantitative methods such as spatial analysis, network modeling, and Bayesian statistics to answer these questions. Joseph's recent work has focused on adapting quantitative spatial modeling techniques for use in International Relations to uncover spatial biases in economic and political phenomena.