

“It depends what you mean
by protectionism”... or does it?

CIGI'09

Stress testing trade and investment regimes

Pierre Sauvé

World Trade Institute, Berne

pierre.sauve@wti.org

Six observations

- An excess supply of Cassandras?
- Trade and investment protection is on the rise, revealing the benefits of name and shame monitoring
 - Is this, however, a cyclical or structural phenomena?
- Choosing the path of least resistance: protection targets that which is weakly or not constrained
 - Water in bound tariffs
 - Subsidy disciplines in services trade (or the lack thereof)
 - The sub-national reach of trade law (or the lack thereof)
 - Perverse non-market economy accession disciplines...
- Viewing the crisis through a broader prism:
 - Prosecuting the Washington Consensus and the dangers of ideological overshooting
 - The transitional pains of emerging multi-polarity
- Stolper-Samuelson still has legs: beware the effects of a jobless recovery in the OECD area and expect the return of the trade-labour interface
- Where next for multilateral rule-making?
 - Do we need a new tool kit?
 - Speculating on the WTO's optimal remit and the need for variable geometry in agenda formation and the conduct of multilateral negotiations

Policy changes towards FDI

