

The global economic (dis)order and the quest for stability

18-19 September 2026

World Trade Institute
University of Bern
Hallerstrasse 6, CH-3012 Bern

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Day 1 – Friday, September 18

8:30-09:00	Registration at the World Trade Institute Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern
9:15-9:20	Opening remarks Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (<i>in-person only</i>)
9:20-10:50	Plenary I: Europe, Innovation vs. Protectionism Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (<i>in-person only</i>)
<u>Chair</u> <u>Panelists</u>	Iana Dreyer, Borderlex Marion Jansen, OECD Sabine Weyand, EU Commission and EUI Peter Flückiger, Swiss Textiles Pascal Kerneis, European Services Forum Arno Hold, Novartis
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern
11:20-12:50	Parallel 1: LLMs and Economic Agreements <i>Organized by the World Trade Institute and Uni Salzburg</i> Room: 205, third floor, WTI (<i>in-person only</i>)
<u>Chair</u> <u>Panelists</u>	Manfred Elsig, World Trade Institute, University of Bern Andreas Dür, University of Salzburg Kirthana Ganeson, University of Bern Julieta Contreras, University of Bern Leonardo Rodrigues, University of Bern
<u>Discussants</u>	Inu Manak, Peterson Institute for International Economics Gabriele Spilker, University of Konstanz
11:20-12:50	Parallel 2: Trade and Sustainability <i>Organized by Wyss Academy and the World Trade Institute</i> Anna Nussbaum, WTI Online participation possible
<u>Chair</u> <u>Panelists</u>	Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, UNCTAD Fernando Fernández, Wyss Academy Rodrigo Fagundes Cezar, FGV Charline Depoorter, University of Basel Julia Gubler, World Trade Institute, University of Bern Utkarsh Uprety, World Trade Institute, University of Bern Noah Wheatley, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
<u>Discussant</u>	Werner Zdouc, University of Bern
11:20-12:50	Parallel 3: New research outlooks on services and digital policies <i>Organized by OECD</i> Room: Silva Casa, WTI Online participation possible
<u>Chair</u>	Marion Jansen, OECD

<u>Panelists</u>	Roberto Echandi, WTI Fellow Joscelyn Magdeleine, World Trade Organization Javier Lopez Gonzalez, OECD Robert Basedow, London School of Economics
<u>Discussants</u>	Jane Drake Brockman, Australian Services Roundtable Jose Blandon, Global Affairs Canada

13:00-14:00 **Lunch at the cafeteria** at Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

14:10-15:40 **Plenary II: Global Trade Disorder: Trends and Opportunities**
Room F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (*in-person only*)

<u>Chair</u>	Pierre Sauvé, University of Bern
<u>Panelists</u>	Helene Budliger Artieda, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Sean Doherty, World Economic Forum Beata Javorcik, EBRD Inu Manak, Peterson Institute for International Economics Amrita Bahri, Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico

15:40-16:10 **Coffee Reception, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern**

16:10-17:40 **Parallel 4: Beyond Market Access: Making Trade Preferences Work in a Fragmenting World**
Organized by German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

<u>Chair</u>	Clara Brandi, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
<u>Panelists</u>	Dominique Njinkeu, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Clara Weinhardt, Maastricht University Woubet Kassa, World Bank (TBC) Tim Vogel, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
<u>Discussants</u>	Alfred Kombudo, Government of Kenya Quynh Nguyen, Wyss Academy

16:10-17:40 **Parallel 5: Technical regulations and trade**
Organized by the World Trade Institute, World Bank Group, World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Room 205, upstairs, WTI (in-person only)

<u>Chair</u>	Octavio Fernández-Amador, World Trade Institute, University of Bern Maryla Maliszewska, World Bank Group
<u>Panelists</u>	Achim Vogt, World Bank Group Erik Wijkstrom, World Trade Organization Ralf Peters, UNCTAD Irene Iodice, City St George's, University of London
<u>Discussants</u>	Melvin Spreij, World Trade Organization Camille Reverdy, Geneva Graduate Institute

16:115-17:45 **Parallel 6: Trade and Trade Wars**
Organized by the University of Bern and the University of St. Gallen

Room: Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Aydin Yildirim, University of St Gallen
Panelists Julian Hinz, Kiel Institute
Kieran Walsh, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)
Joseph Francois, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
Discussants Maximilian von Ehrlich, University of Bern
Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute

19:30 Speakers' Dinner (per invitation only)

Day 2 - Saturday, September 19

9:30-11:00 **Parallel 7: Meeting the author of "On Trade War"**
Organized by the University of Ottawa
Room: 205, third floor, WTI (in-person only)

Chair Wolfgang Alschner, University of Ottawa
Panelist Craig VanGrasstek, Trade Historian
Discussants Ilaria Espa, University of Lugano
Stephanie Rickard, London School of Economics

9:30-11:00 **Parallel 8: Industrial policy, plurilateral agreements and the trading system**
Organized by the European University Institute
Room: Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute
Panelists Cosimo Beverelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
Rohit Ticku, European University Institute
Fabio Artuso, Asian Development Bank
Julian Latimer Clarke, Asian Development Bank
Adam Jakubik, International Monetary Fund
Discussant: Gabrielle Marceau, University of Bern
Matteo Fiorini, OECD

9.30-11.00 **Parallel 9: Trade Concepts, trade and financial data**
Organized by the University of Bern and the University of Groningen
Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Isabelle Van Damme, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
Panelists Tristan Kohl, University of Groningen
Lukas Linsi, University of Groningen
Nicolas Lamp, Universidad Católica del Uruguay
Discussants: Maarten Smeets, University of Bern
Longyue Zhao, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

11:00 - 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00

Plenary III: The New Economic Statecraft

Room: Silva Casa, WTI

[Online participation possible](#)

Chair
Speakers

Michael Hahn, University of Bern
Markus Schlagenhof, European Free Trade Association
Stephanie Rickard, London School of Economics
Sufian Jusoh, the National University of Malaysia
Kathleen Claussens, Georgetown University (online)
Alfred Kombudo, Government of Kenya

13:00-13:05

Closing remarks, *Room: Silva Casa, WTI*

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