



# ANNUAL REPORT | 20 24



world  
trade  
institute







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## From the Managing Director

*“Moving from strength to strength – year on year and generation to generation.”*

Dear alumni, friends, colleagues and partners,

We are pleased to share information about the recent developments with the WTI at the University of Bern. This year we reflect on our 25th anniversary as an institute, focusing on education, outreach and research.

The WTI continues to focus on education for the next generation of international economic governance experts. This year alone, we saw 32 excellent students graduate and go on to join leading international organizations, law firms and companies. To the class of 2024, we will watch with pride as you apply your expertise to the pressing issues of our time. We will applaud your successes and professional growth from your academic home in Bern – and look forward to welcoming you back as a part of our Alumni network.

A critical chapter for the WTI closes, with the retirement of Professor Dr. Peter Van den Bossche. Peter has joined the School of Law of Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), one of China's C9 League top universities, as Chair Professor of International Economic Law. We wish Peter all the best. While we say goodbye to our dear colleague, we warmly welcome our new Director of Studies, Professor Dr.

Isabelle Van Damme. Isabelle is a renowned expert in international economic law, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact that she creates in her role over the years to come.

The WTI continues to be a home for discussions centering on the future of trade and investment. We know that these discussions need to happen, and in this age of economic uncertainty and rising populism, we consider it to be a part of our mandate to facilitate transparent discourse about the topics that impact the world. In 2024, we hosted more than 25 events at the WTI – and we look forward to scaling up our outreach efforts in 2025.

Trade impacts every single human on earth every single day, and understanding international economic governance is critical to keep goods flowing. Our research continues to explore the threats, challenges – and opportunities – to international economic governance. From trade and sustainability, the growing threats to the security dimension of trade, the socio-political impacts of trade and investment agreements – the WTI research team plays a critical role in the

front lines of research that impacts billions of people. In 2024, the WTI produced more than 35 publications and had three PhD students graduate.

We look forward to another 25 years of educating the brightest minds, facilitating information and researching the latest developments in international economic governance. In times of escalating geopolitical tension and looming geoeconomic fragmentation, it is important that academics – where and when possible – continue to listen to and talk with one another. While there may be much that divides our countries, we must continue to search for common ground and ways to cooperate in addressing global crises.

Sincerely yours,

**Joseph Francois**  
Managing Director,  
World Trade Institute







## Executive Board

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Manfred Elsig



Susan Emmenegger



Joseph Francois



Michael Hahn



Jeanne Tschopp



Isabelle Van Damme



Quynh Nguyen



Maximilian von Ehrlich



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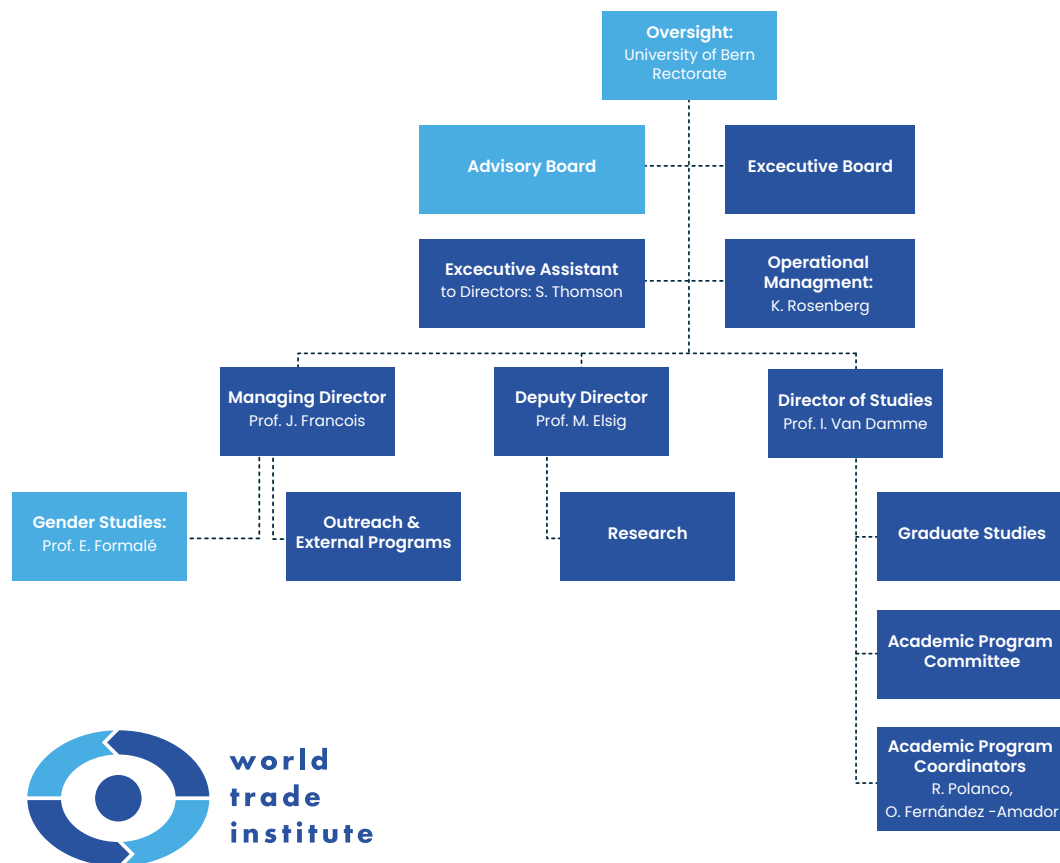
Victor do Prado



Werner Zdouc

# WTI Governance Structure

Established in 1999, the World Trade Institute (WTI) is dedicated to advancing education and research in international trade and investment regulation. It integrates graduate-level teaching with interdisciplinary research across law, economics, and political science. In addition to academic programs, the WTI offers specialized advisory services and fosters a diverse, inclusive environment by recruiting globally. This commitment to excellence in training future practitioners and researchers underpins its mission to enhance research capacities and global understanding of trade and investment governance.



# Administration Meet the Team



**Karin Rosenberg**  
Director of  
Administration



**Sandra Joseph**  
Administrative  
Staff



**Pamela Beglinger**  
Program  
Administrator



**Raphaela Weber**  
Student Fellow



**Nadine De Angelis**  
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**Aline Lehnherr**  
Librarian



**Christian Steiger**  
IT Manager



**Samantha Suarez**  
Communications  
Officer



**Sophia Thompson**  
Language & Executive  
Communications  
Manager/ Executive  
Assistant

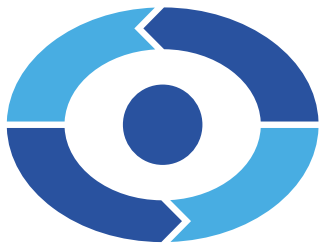
## Celebrating 25 years of the World Trade Institute

Since 1999, the World Trade Institute has hosted more than 500 students from 89 countries. In the past 25 years, our global network of graduates has created an impact for international corporations, governments, international organizations, law firms and academic institutions.

### Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)

The World Trade Institute (WTI) has offered the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) since 1999. Students learn from the world's leading trade and investment experts from law firms, international organizations, policy research institutes and top universities. Over the years, the MILE program has established itself as a pathway for professionals aiming for impactful careers in international organizations, government institutions, academia, multinational corporations, and internationally focused law firms.

## Graduate Programs



The MILE program continues to be a critical cornerstone of the WTI's mission to advance knowledge and innovation in international trade and investment, preparing the next generation of global leaders.

In 2024, the WTI had a total of 23 students from over a dozen different countries. This international and diverse group fosters a unique learning environment where students benefit from both the expertise of leading academics and practitioners – as well as the cross-cultural perspectives of their peers.



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

### TRAIL+ Program

The **TRAIL+** program, launched in 2017, is offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Law at the University of Bern. This advanced interdisciplinary program 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, offering students a unique academic experience that blends legal and economic education tailored to the field of international trade and investment.

The **TRAIL+** program places a stronger focus on the legal dimensions of international trade and investment, providing participants with in-depth expertise in these areas while integrating critical economic and political perspectives. This specialized focus prepares graduates for impactful careers in legal professions or scholars in international trade and investment law.



The **TRAIL+** program attracts motivated professionals and students seeking to build a robust foundation for their legal careers. This only reinforces the programs' role as a key offering within the WTI's portfolio of advanced educational programs.

In 2024, the program continued its legacy of attracting a vibrant and talented cohort of experienced lawyers and lawyers-in-training from different countries. This globally representative group cultivates a stimulating learning atmosphere, enriched by the expertise of distinguished academics and professionals, as well as the diverse cultural insights and experiences shared among peers.

## Certificate and Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics

The World Trade Institute (WTI) provides professionals with flexible learning opportunities through its Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) and Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. These programs offer intensive, week-long courses that enable participants to deepen their understanding of international economic governance, trade, and investment.

Designed for professionals from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, the CAS and DAS programs are open to individuals who completed an undergraduate degree. Participants can choose from a diverse selection of specialized courses that provide cutting-edge insights into global trade and economic policy. In 2024, five students are actively pursuing the CAS in International Law and Economics.

*To learn more about these programs, visit:*  
[WTI CAS/DAS Programs](#)

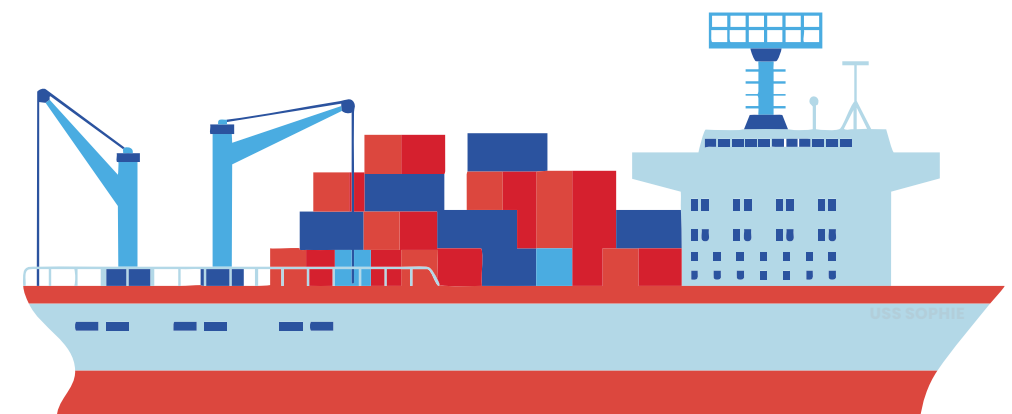
## Winter and Summer Academy

The **WTI's Winter - and Summer Academies** provide intensive, week-long courses designed to strengthen and broaden understanding of cutting-edge issues in trade and investment law and policy. Each course consists of 20 hours of focused instruction, making these academies an attractive option for professionals and policymakers seeking specialized knowledge.

- The **Winter Academy**, held in January and February, comprises of four courses
- The **Summer Academy**, held in June and July, comprises of 11 courses

These courses are integral components of the MILE, TRAIL+, CAS International Law and Economics, and DAS International Law and Economics programs but are also open to students studying at the University of Bern and external participants, including government officials and private-sector professionals.

In 2024, the academies saw robust participation, with over forty external participants attending both the Winter Academy and Summer Academy courses. These numbers underscore the ongoing demand for the WTI's expertise in the dynamic fields of international trade and investment and opportunities for continued education.





# WTI Graduate School of Economic Globalization and Integration

The WTI Graduate School of Economic Globalization and Integration (EGI) has 31 PhD students. 16 are PhDs in law students, 10 are PhDs in economics and two are PhDs in political science.

## Doctoral Colloquia

WTI PhD candidates benefit from regular presentations at doctoral colloquia, where they receive peer feedback and guidance from supervisors. Held at least twice a year, these sessions provide the venue for an exchange of ideas and support a platform to practice thesis defenses. Active participation, including attending colleagues' presentations, strengthens research skills, allow for supervisor feedback regarding guidelines and direction – enriching the doctoral journey.



## Belalp PhD Retreat: Advancing Interdisciplinary Research

In June 2024 the World Trade Institute hosted a PhD retreat on the Belalp. Led by Prof. Manfred Elsig of the World Trade Institute, University of Bern, this event provided an in-depth exploration of grant-writing strategies and interdisciplinary research proposal development, equipping participants with essential skills for securing research funding.

The session emphasized the importance of **grant-writing essentials**:

- Developing strong research proposals tailored to funding opportunities
- Understanding the challenges and structure of grant applications
- Enhancing collaboration across disciplines to generate impactful research
- Receiving expert guidance and feedback on draft proposals

A primary outcome of the retreat was to guide participants in drafting interdisciplinary research proposals, forming the foundation for future collaborative projects.



# Spatial Methods for Economists Using Python

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**Offered by the Center for Regional Economic Development (CRED), University of Bern and co-hosted with the World Trade Institute**

In recent years, spatial data has become a cornerstone of empirical economic research, with applications spanning urban and real estate economics, development and environmental economics, labor and public economics, economic history, and international trade. Spatial data allows economists to address “where” questions in economics, uncovering insights into how geography and space shape economic behavior and outcomes.

Economists use spatial data to explore how location, geography, and spatial relationships influence economic outcomes. Spatial data enables analysis of variations across regions, the influence of proximity or distance, and the role of geographic features in shaping economic activity.

Recognizing the importance of these tools, CRED launched the course “Spatial Methods for Economists Using Python”, designed to equip participants with the skills to effectively utilize spatial data in economic analyses.

## Objective and Scope

The course provided a systematic workflow for extracting, structuring, and analyzing spatial data to address complex economic questions. Participants learned to automate key tasks such as:

- Importing and handling various spatial data formats
- Projecting data to standard reference systems
- Defining spatial structures and relationships
- Selecting and merging data based on spatial criteria
- Performing spatial statistics and exporting results

To enhance usability, the course integrated these processes with statistical software like R and Stata, bridging the gap between spatial data processing and econometric modeling. This approach ensured participants could efficiently manage spatial datasets and incorporate spatial insights into broader economic research workflows.



## Lecturer

The course was led by **Olivier Schöni**, Associate Professor at the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP), University of Lausanne. His expertise in spatial data and economic analysis provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical guidance.



# The Rules and Practice of Treaty Interpretation: Focus on WTO Law

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The WTI organized an interactive five-day course on treaty interpretation, focusing on the principles of public international law and their application in WTO disputes. This program provided participants with a structured approach to understanding the codified and uncodified rules of treaty interpretation, emphasizing practical applications and contextual factors influencing interpretation.

The course was divided into two distinct segments:

- General Principles of Treaty Interpretation
- WTO-Specific Interpretation: A deep dive into the practice of treaty interpretation in WTO dispute settlement reports

Participants examined the rules codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, as well as other interpretative principles used in public international law. The course included analysis of institutional, political, and historical factors affecting treaty interpretation. Practical examples from international adjudicating bodies

dealing with investment, environmental law, and maritime disputes were explored.

Participants analyzed how interpretative rules apply to trade disputes, focusing on current challenges in WTO law.

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## Lecturers

This course was led by both **Jenya Grigorova**, Dispute Settlement Lawyer, Legal Affairs Division, WTO, and **Gabrielle Marceau**, Senior Counsellor, Research Division (ERSD), WTO. Both instructors brought extensive expertise in international law and trade policy, offering participants valuable insights into the complexities of treaty interpretation.



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

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

The tenth edition of the Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy took place from 3 to 28 June 2024 at the premises of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in New Delhi. The Academy is jointly organized by the World Trade Institute, the University of Bern and the Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT. Along with the four-week law program (Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy), a two-week economics program (Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Economic Policy) was integrated for a more comprehensive learning experience.

Thirty-nine students from different law schools and schools of economics from all over In-

dia as well as legal and economic professionals participated in this year's program.

The Academy consisted of courses on Essentials of WTO Law and Policy, Investment Law, Trade and Intellectual Property Rights, Trade in Services, SPS and TBT, the Agreement on Agriculture, the Law and Policy of Trade Remedies, Foreign Subsidies and Electronic Commerce, Introduction to Economics of Trade, Economics and Practice of Global Services Trade, Trade and Environment, and Preferential Trade Agreements. In some of the courses, law and economics students were taught jointly. 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 New Delhi. A panel discussion took place on 'Reflecting on India's Evolving Trade Policy' with Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, WTI Director of Studies, Prof. Pritam Banerjee, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies and Mr. Pierre Sauvé, Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank Group and Faculty Member of the WTI.





# Global Impact Association



The World Trade Institute has 25 years of creating impact – a long-standing track record. The Global Impact Association is creating impact on the individual level, targeting trade professionals that have enormous potential to grow in their career. The GIA offers students the chance to attend the WTI to achieve that potential. The ambition of the GIA is to contribute to a better, more sustainable and inclusive system, by developing world-class trade professionals and scholars. Special attention is given to students from low and middle-income countries and to promote diversity.

*Learn more from Professor Dr. Manfred Elsig, President of the Global Impact Association.*



## ***What is the Global Impact Association?***

We help the World Trade Institute open new doors and create opportunities for its students and researchers. We work with our partners to collaboratively fund scholarships, internships, research and outreach activities.

## ***As the president of the GIA, what is your role within the organization?***

I chair the Executive Committee and together we are responsible for most of the activities that the Global Impact Association conducts throughout the year, such as strategy development, fundraising, and being present at different events relating to the trade and investment community. We're working hard to make sure that the GIA is known within the community – and what it strives to achieve.

## ***On that note, what is the GIA trying to achieve?***

Ultimately, if we want to support the development of a sustainable and inclusive global trade system, then we need to create access to opportunities. Did you know that many students are pursuing in-

ternships? Yet, studying and living in Switzerland is costly. So, one of our tools is to support unpaid internships that students from the World Trade Institute undertake once their studies conclude. This is often a critical first step into productive and impactful careers in the trade and investment community. But students need financial support – and that's why we work to provide scholarships for students.

## ***What impact is the GIA creating with these and other scholarships?***

We work long term with partners who can help us fund a variety of different scholarships. Besides internship support, the larger budget of the GIA is reserved for supporting students in pursuing a year-long master's degree at the World Trade Institute. In the past couple of years, one important partner has been the government of Taiwan. Together we share a commitment to sustainable development and empowerment of students. We support one student from Taiwan and another student that comes from a low-income country every year. We also have had two different scholarships in the past aimed mostly at women in Latin America.



We want to create more opportunities for students who have some professional experience, who can really gain from the World Trade Institute's master programs – because we really believe we can help them excel in the field of international economic law and politics and help them to make the next step in their career. The GIA helps students pursue their dreams.

### ***What does the future hold for the GIA?***

We want to grow, to work with partners who are interested in supporting our work to create a better, more sustainable and inclusive trading system, by developing world-class trade and investment professionals and scholars. We see potential in further developing research programs, events and outreach. For example, the GIA supported the World Trade Forum in 2024 in Bern, Switzerland. We're exploring – we're growing – come join us!



Wan-Ting Tseng



Wardi Zaman



Johanna Guerra Uscovich

## **Supporting the Global Impact Association in 2025**

*“We want to continue our successful cooperation with existing partners – and find new partners that can support our journey.”*

**– Prof. Manfred Elsig**

We need the new generation of professionals to understand the complexity of the world in the domains of trade and investment, and to understand how to seek solutions and strive for sustainability in the global trading system. There's a lot of work to be done – and we're open to new ideas.

*Are you looking to support free and fair global trade? Get in touch with the Global Impact Association.*







## The Nathalie Diaz Asmat Scholarship

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In this interview with Joel Reeves, you learn more about the passion and care that has been put into the establishment of the Nathalie Diaz Asmet Scholarship. This scholarship was created to remember Nathalie, who was a MILE 14 alumna from Peru and a dispute settlement lawyer at the World Trade Organization. Through this initiative, we want to support talented students to follow in her footsteps, but also give people the opportunity to honor her memory.

### *What about your late wife's legacy resonates most with you?*

Never one to seek the limelight, Nathalie was uncompromising in her principles. She called out injustice where she encountered it, always sided with the underdog and allied with the discriminated. She was a brilliant lawyer. We still miss her dearly.

### *Why collaborate with the WTI on this scholarship, in relation to the MILE and TRAIL+ studies?*

Nathalie arrived at the WTI on a SECO scholarship which allowed her to launch her career on an international scale. She embraced the student experience, being taught by experts in her field and making friends with her fellow classmates. I myself was a MILE fellow, so in a way we were both part of the WTI family.

### *What impact do you hope the scholarship helps to create in terms of academic and career goals?*

I think Prof. Cottier's vision of an interdisciplinary program covering the legal, economic and political aspects of trade remains as relevant as ever; whether graduates go into government, international organizations or the private sector, they are equipped to become changemakers at the highest level.

### *What message would you like to share with the donors (and organizers) of the Nathalie Diaz Scholarship?*

This scholarship is only possible thanks to the support of the GIA, the WTI, and the many contributions from colleagues, classmates, alumni, friends and family, and the entire trade community. Your generosity is overwhelming and shows the effect Nathalie had on all of us.

Thank you.

## Research

WTI researchers are active in the fields of economics, political science, law and explore multidisciplinary approaches. Our research aims to contribute to the highest standards of research quality and integrity and aims to be relevant. The WTI's research portfolio addresses some of the most pressing concerns relating to challenges of international economic cooperation and governance. This includes the move towards increasingly populist economic policies on a national level, the visible backlash against globalization, climate change, migration and sustainable development.

Many of the research projects at the WTI are transdisciplinary in nature: research questions are developed and inspired by the latest debates across disciplines. The scientific approaches are guided by a multitude of research methods and our researchers are encouraged to formulate policy recommendations based on their research findings.

The WTI conducts innovative research at the intersection of economics, political science, and law, addressing critical global issues such as climate change, migration, nationalism in economic policies, and sustainable development. Guided by rigorous standards of quality and integrity, WTI researchers employ transdisciplinary approaches, drawing from diverse methods and contemporary debates to ensure relevance and impact.

The overall research profile of the institute for this period is summarized at the end of this chapter in Table 1: Research projects overview: 2020–2025

## In 2024

Project	Funding/Lead (L) /Co-Lead (CL)	Time period	Responsibility	Project budget
Trade and Democracy (TRADEM)	SNF	2021–25	Manfred Elsig	CHF 599,132
ID Grant	UNIBE	2021	Manfred Elsig	CHF 89,500
MATS	EU, H2020	2021–24	Manfred Elsig /Christian Häberli	€ 157,100
BATMODEL	EU, H2020	2020–24	Joseph Francois	€ 290,000
Economic Globalization Under Threat (seed money)	SNF (SERI)	2021	Manfred Elsig	CHF 27,420
Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women's Participation at International Level	SNF	2021–23	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 346,000
GEE metrics	SNF	2022–26	Fernandez-Amador	CHF 184,049
Policy Uncertainty and Market Access in Services	SNF	2022–27	Joseph Francois	CHF 466,018
Practices of Human Right Justification	EU, SERI	2023–26	Elisa Fornalé	CHF 644,736



## EDIT

The Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT), is a systematic and comprehensive database on international investment agreements, including available texts in one 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 digitized and non-English texts were translated through machine translation software. Articles and paragraphs of the agreements were categorized using different techniques (automated labelling and based on a keyword dictionary, as well as on manual annotation).

## GEM

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 be-

tween 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 levels by making plain the need to strengthen their complementarity.

## HRJust

Human Rights Justifications aims to develop a theory of Human Rights Justifications and a process for Systematic Ongoing Civil Society Engagement as a tool for a gender and intersectional inclusive Civil Society engagement. HRJust’s purpose is to identify gaps in human rights regulations and protection, serving as underpinning data for our recommendations to the EU in support of a multinational human rights system and the 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 operationalized through three themes: Covid, Migration and Climate.

## GEE

**General equilibrium econometrics and modeling for sustainable development (GEE-metrics) Policy Uncertainty and Market Access in Services**

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 multicountry, 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.

## 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 policymakers better understand the observable democratization effects of trade agreements.

# International Cooperation

## The World Trade Institute Network

The WTI cooperates with leading universities and institutes through memoranda of understanding and collaborative projects, carrying out joint research and teaching programs. Students of partner universities benefit from a preferential tuition fee for the MILE and TRAIL+ programs.

*In 2024, we initiated more than 5 memoranda of understanding with universities and institutes world-wide.*

- Centre for WTO studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (India)
- Hamad Bin Khalifa University College (Qatar)
- Jilin University School of Law People's Republic of China (Republic of China)
- NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad – Centre for International Trade and Business Laws (India)
- Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Económico Internacional



## Global Economic Governance Lectures in 2024

By organizing the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and the WTI's Brown Bag series, researchers, staff and students at the World Trade Institute were able to learn about a variety of salient issues, and these lectures remain open to the public.

### November 2024

#### Switzerland's trade policy: Achievements, Past and Future Challenges

Ambassador Didier Chambovey—former Swiss Ambassador to the WTO and a member of the WTI Advisory Board—delivered a seminar at the World Trade Institute in Bern, reflecting on Switzerland's trade policy achievements and the challenges it faced moving forward.

He offered insightful comments and timely reflections on the evolving global trade landscape, particularly in light of rising geo-political tensions and the resurgence of industrial policy. His insights draw on a distinguished career in trade diplomacy, especially during his tenure as Swiss

Ambassador to the WTO and to the OECD Trade Committee.

### October 2024

#### Navigating Global Trading Systems: The Challenges & opportunities of Small Developing Economies

Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme is the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva and Ambassador to Switzerland since 2017. The lecture outlined the challenges faced by developing countries, and the opportunities available as they seek to participate in global trade. The lecture also outlined the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries as they sought to participate more fully in the global trade system. It examined how Botswana and other African nations positioned themselves strategically within the global trade network by leveraging natural resources, pursuing regional integration, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). A significant focus was placed on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its potential to reshape Africa's trade landscape, promote intra-African trade, and draw increased investment to the continent.



The lecture also emphasized the importance of incorporating a gender lens into trade initiatives to ensure that women had equal access to economic opportunities and could fully engage in the trade ecosystem.

## September 2024

### The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi: Main Results and Next Steps

Sofía Boza serves as the Ambassador of Chile to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC) beginning in July 2022. Upon her appointment to this position, she took on the co-coordination of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO. From May 2023 to May 2024, she chaired the WTO Working Group on Trade and Technology Transfer, and as of April 2024, she assumed the role of Chair of the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Before her diplomatic career, Boza was an associate professor

and head of the Department of Rural Management and Innovation at the University of Chile, and also a professor at the Institute of International Studies at the same institution. She worked as an external evaluator of public policies for the Budget Office of the Chilean Ministry of Finance.

Her areas of specialization included agricultural policy and governance, rural development, food markets, and international trade. She was a visiting fellow at the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern, and an expert instructor at the Institute of Food Laws and Regulations at Michigan State University.

## May 2024

### Enhanced Integrated Framework at the World Trade Organization

The final Global Economic Governance (GEG) seminar of the Spring 2024 semester featured Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) at the World Trade Organization and a distinguished MILE alumnus. In this session, Mr. Adhikari addressed the unique value proposition of the EIF within the global Aid for Trade agenda, highlighting its achieve-

ments in least developed countries (LDCs) and discussing how those successes could be replicated in other contexts. He also explored how Aid for Trade could adapt to the evolving trade and investment landscape, emphasizing the need for flexibility and innovation in addressing new global challenges.

Mr. Adhikari had been serving as Executive Director of the EIF Executive Secretariat at the WTO since October 2013. Before taking on this role, he led the Kathmandu-based regional think tank, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAW-TEE), as its Chief Executive Director. His earlier roles included serving as a Senior Adviser to Nepal's National Planning Commission and as a Trade Program Specialist at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## March 2024

### Areas of Work of the WTO Secretariat

The second Global Economic Governance (GEG) seminar of 2024 featured Ms. Arti Gobind Daswani, a lawyer from the Market Access Division of the World Trade Orga-

nization (WTO), who delivered a presentation on the various areas of work undertaken by the WTO Secretariat. During the session, she discussed her role supporting the Council for Trade in Goods and the Committee on Customs Valuation, as well as her involvement in developing AI guidelines and leading an internal AI interest group at the WTO. Drawing on her broad experience within the organization, Ms. Daswani reflected on her previous roles across several WTO divisions, including the Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, the Legal Affairs Division, the Agriculture and Commodities Division's SPS Section, the Trade Facilitation Section, and the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation. She also spoke about her work as a trade policy advisor to developing countries during their accession to the WTO and her contributions to arbitration panels in trade disputes. Ms. Daswani holds a law degree from the Universidad de Chile and a Master's in EU Law from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

<b>Promoting Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women in Decision-Making Systems a Holistic Approach to Economic Empowerment</b>	February 2024	Co-Organized Institute of International Relations Prague, WTI, Bern	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>Climate Litigation with Civil Society Engagement</b>	May 2024	Co-organized with the Institute of International Relations, Prague	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>Gender and Migration</b>	August 2024	Sarah Scuzzarello, Associate Professor of Migration at the University of Sussex and affiliated researcher at the Sussex Centre for Migration Research	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>31st Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law</b>	July 2024	Invited Speaker, Melbourne	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>Measuring Women's Empowerment in the Global South: Know the GAP gender lectures</b>	September 2024	Online. Sonalde Desai (Distinguished University Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland and Professor and Centre Director, NCAER-National Data Innovation Center, New Delhi)	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>The fragmented regulatory puzzle for AI, Gender Equality and non-discrimination: Comparing approaches of the EU, the Council of Europe and the UN</b>	October 2024	Online. Fabian Lütz works as a Legal Officer at Equinet on AI and equality/non-discrimination in the framework of the Project Equality-proofing AI systems: "Equality by Design, Deliberation and Oversight"	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>Public Hearings of the Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights</b>	April 2024	Invited Speaker, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Barbados	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé

<b>UN Regional Consultation on the elaboration of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems for Eastern European States and Western European and other States</b>	March 2024	UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, UN Women and UN CEDAW Committee, Istanbul	Prof. Dr. Elisa Fornalé
<b>International Economic Law and the Role of the Executive</b>	June 2024	Webinar, Co-organizer, Krista Nadakavukaren. Co-hosted by the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law. Speakers included Anthony Van Duzer (Canada), Sheng Zhang (China), Malebakeng Forere (Lesotho), and Georges Baur (Liechtenstein)	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>International Economic Law and the Role of the Legislature</b>	September 2024	Webinar, Co-organizer, Krista Nadakavukaren. Speakers included Milena Azevedo (Brazil), Kazumochi Kometani (Japan), Cornelia Furculiță (Moldova), and Padideh Ala'i (USA).	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>International Economic Law and the Role of the Judiciary</b>	December 2024	Webinar, Co-organizer, Krista Nadakavukaren. Speakers included Elizabeth Sheargold (Australia), José Manuel Álvarez Zárate (Colombia), Vineet Hegde and Marcus Gustafsson (European Union), and Hilton Zunckel (South Africa)	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Basics of International Investment Law</b>	February 2024	Co-organized with the University of Eastern Finland	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Environment and Investment: International Governance / Medio ambiente e inversiones: gobernanza internacional</b>	June 2024	University of Chile, Institute of International Studies	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco



<b>Contemporary Tendencies on Comparative Law /</b>	June 2024	University of Chile School of Law	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Tendencias contemporáneas en Derecho Comparado</b>			
<b>International Investment Protection Law</b>	February – June 2024	University of Lucerne	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Advanced International Investment Law</b>	September – December 2024	University of Bern	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Legal Writing and Academic Support for Advanced Master's Students</b>	January 2024	World Trade Institute – University of Bern	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>The Economics and Law of Space-Based Commerce</b>	January 2024	Organized by the International Space Science Institute, the World Trade Institute, ISDC, COSPAR and U. College Dublin	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Piracy, sabotage, and the rule of law in space</b>	May 2024	Co-authored with Ron Davies and Joseph Francois	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Diplomatic Protection and Access to Justice</b>	June 2024	Key-note speaker at the Seminar "Mavrommatis at 100!", Palazzo del Bo, University of Padua	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>International Investment Treaties</b>	December 2024	Seminar on Studies by the Swiss Institute of Comparative Studies, speaker at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>ETH Global Lecture: Who Owns the Moon?</b>	December 2024	Speaker with Michelle L. Hanlon, Luca Thanei, Catherine Kropf, and Chris Luebke-man, at ETH Zurich	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
<b>Third-party funding in international arbitration / Financiación de terceros en el arbitraje internacional</b>	November 2024	UNCITRAL LAC Days, speaker at online webinar, organized by the Faculty of Law – University of Chile and UNCITRAL	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco

<b>The trade-environment nexus: debates, opportunities and challenges</b>	October 2024	Co-organized with foraus Bern and the Wyss Academy for Nature	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Has the Paris Climate Agreement Changed Corporate Behavior?</b>	March 2024	Co-organized by the Oeschger Center for Climate Change Research, the World Trade Institute, and the Wyss Academy	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>«Club»: Trump vs. Biden – Das Beste, was die USA zu bieten haben?</b>	February 2024	Organized by SRF / Swiss Radio and Television	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Souveränität - ein skeptischer Denkanstoss aus dem Bereich Internationale Beziehungen / Sovereignty - skeptical food for thought from the field of international relations</b>	May 2024	Forum für Universität und Gesellschaft / Forum for University and Society	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Special Lecture at the Foreign Trade University</b>	May 2024	Hanoi, Vietnam	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Trade Defense in Action: New Strategies for a Changing World</b>	June 2024	Online. Global Impact Association-World Trade Institute Alumni Association Webinar	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Greening Global Trade: New Approaches to Aligning Trade and Environmental Goals</b>	June 2024	Online	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig
<b>Belalp PhD retreat</b>	March 2024	Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig

<b>Strengthening Strong Economic and Political Ties: The 2023 US-Taiwan Trade Agreement and Beyond</b>	December 2024	Webinar, organized and moderated by Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche, Minister John Chen-chung Deng, Taiwan's Chief Trade Negotiator, Chang-fa Lo, Permanent Representative of Chinese Taipei to the WTO, Kathleen Claussen, Professor of Law, Georgetown Law, and Jeffrey Schott, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics	
<b>What Will WTO Dispute Settlement Be Like in 2025?</b>	November 2024	Guest lecture on What Will WTO Dispute Settlement Be Like in 2025?, City St George's, University of London, London, United Kingdom	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>WTO Dispute Settlement: Broken Beyond Repair?</b>	November 2024	Guest lecture on WTO Dispute Settlement: Broken Beyond Repair?, Faculty of Law, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>International Trade and Investment Law</b>	November 2024	Course on International Trade and Investment Law (with Leonardo Borlini), Bocconi University, Milan, Italy	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Balancing Trade with Non-Trade Concerns</b>	November 2024	Online lecture on Balancing Trade with Non-Trade Concerns, Professional Diploma in International Trade Policy Programme, International Trade Institute, Dublin, Ireland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche

<b>WTO Dispute Settlement: Glorious Past, Troubled Present and Uncertain Future</b>	October 2024	Guest lecture on WTO Dispute Settlement: Glorious Past, Troubled Present and Uncertain Future, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands, 5 November 2024.	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Lessons to Draw for an ICSID Appellate Mechanism from the Demise of the WTO Appellate Body?</b>	October 2024	Speaker at the Eighth Intersessional Meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform, Chengdu, China	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>CIIAF Annual Conference 2024 on International Investment Law at an Era of Reform and Challenges</b>		Guest of honour at the CIIAF Annual Conference 2024 on International Investment Law at an Era of Reform and Challenges, Chengdu, China	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Trade Agreements and Disability Inclusion: Demystifying the Disconnect between Barriers and Policy Solutions</b>		Panel on Trade Agreements and Disability Inclusion: Demystifying the Disconnect between Barriers and Policy Solutions, WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Trade, Gender Equality and WTO Law</b>		Panel on Trade, Gender Equality and WTO Law, WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Special Plenary Session</b>	September 2024	Special Plenary Session for the 25th Anniversary of the World Trade Institute, WTI/EUI World Trade Forum, Bern, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>New Developments in International Trade</b>	September 2024	Online lecture on New Developments in International Trade, International Trade Law Summer Program, Moot Court Bench, Sri Lanka	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche



<b>Grand Final of the Final Oral Round of the 22nd John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition</b>	September 2024	Panel of the Grand Final of the Final Oral Round of the 22nd John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>WTO: Past, Present and Future</b>	August 2024	Podcast Interview with Milena da Fonseca Azevedo on WTO: Past, Present and Future, WITCast	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>The Uncertain Future of WTO Dispute Settlement</b>	June 2024	Guest lecture on The Uncertain Future of WTO Dispute Settlement, Xi'an Jiaotong University School of Law, Xi'an, China	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Balancing Trade with Non-Trade Concerns</b>	October 2024	Online lecture on Balancing Trade with Non-Trade Concerns, Professional Diploma in International Trade Policy Programme, International Trade Institute, Dublin, Ireland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>International Trade in Times of Geopolitical Confrontation</b>	May 2024	Guest lecture on International Trade in Times of Geopolitical Confrontation, Xi'an Jiaotong University School of Law, Xi'an, China	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>EFTA-India Free Trade Agreement</b>	May 2024	Panel on EFTA-India Free Trade Agreement, Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi, India	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>Essentials of WTO Law and Policy</b>	April 2024	Course on Essentials of WTO Law and Policy, CWS/WTI Joint Academy, New Delhi, India	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche

<b>WTO Law on Trade in Food Products – Simulation Exercise: The Chocolate War</b>	June 2024	Course on WTO Law on Trade in Food Products – Simulation Exercise: The Chocolate War, Food Law Master Programme, LUISS School of Law, Rome, Italy	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>WTO Law and the Climate Crisis</b>	June 2024	Seminar on WTO Law and the Climate Crisis, College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>The WTO and the Rules-Based Multilateral Trading System in Crisis and on Basic Rules on Trade in Industrial and Agricultural Products</b>	February 2024	Guest lectures on The WTO and the Rules-Based Multilateral Trading System in Crisis and on Basic Rules on Trade in Industrial and Agricultural Products, MEIG Programme, University of Geneva, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>European Union – Stainless Steel Cold-Rolled Flat Products</b>	In progress	WTO dispute settlement	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
<b>European Union – Biodiesel (Indonesia)</b>	In progress	WTO dispute settlement	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche

## Policy Research

The WTI conducts commissioned research for a range of public and private institutions in the fields of international trade and investment law. The WTI experts are actively engaged in providing advice on topics such as impact assessments of preferential trade agreements, gap analyses of investment laws and policies, WTO reform and accession.

Researchers at the WTI contribute every year to various reports that address salient topics, such as:

Why is there no investor-state dispute settlement in RCEP? Bargaining and Contestation in the Investment Regime	March 2024	Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig Kirthana Ganeson Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh Prof. Dr. Andrew Lugg
The Uncertain Future of WTO Dispute Settlement: An Appraisal of the February 2024 Consolidated Text Resulting from the Molina Process on Dispute Settlement Reform	September 2024	Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche
Empirical Dimensions of Investment Awards	September 2024	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
Space Pirates, or, Subsidizing Industrial Sabotage in Outer Space	October 2024	Prof. Dr. Joseph Francois Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
Pursuing Environmental and Social Objectives through Trade Agreements	October 2024	Prof. Dr. Joseph Francois
Possible Breaches and Possible Defences for Economic Sanctions Against Russia	December 2024	Iryna Bogdanova Dr. Rodrigo Polanco
Process Failure: What Does the Lack of Appellate Review Mean for Due Process of Law in WTO Disputes?	December 2024	Dr. Rodrigo Polanco Sean Stacy





# Outreach and supporting the next generation of trade experts

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The WTI has been involved in local events, debates and conducted interviews with national and international media. By participating in various national and international policy discussions and debates, the WTI is able to communicate the latest research on trade and international economic law.

## Global Economic Governance Lectures in 2024

By organizing the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and the WTI's Brown Bag series, researchers, staff and students at the World Trade Institute were able to learn about a variety of salient issues, and these lectures remain open to the public.

### November 2024

#### Switzerland's trade policy: Achievements, Past and Future Challenges

Geo-political tensions, the return of industrial policies and their impact on the world trading system: Dr. Didier Chambovey, Ph.D. in Economics, former Ambassador and Delegate for Trade

Agreements of the Swiss Federal Government, Navigating Global Trading Systems: The Challenges & Opportunities of Small Developing Economies. Chambovey, former Swiss Ambassador to the WTO General Council and to the OECD Trade Committee.

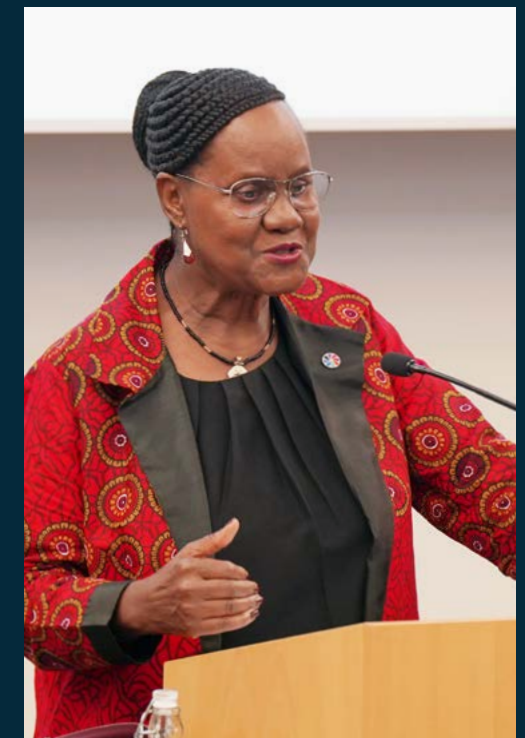
### October 2024

#### Navigating Global Trading Systems: The Challenges & opportunities of Small Developing Economies

Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme is the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva and Ambassador to Switzerland since 2017. The lecture outlined the challenges faced by developing countries, and the opportunities available as they seek to participate in global trade. The lecture also outlined the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries as they sought to participate more fully in the global trade system. It examined how Botswana and other African nations positioned themselves strategically within the global trade network by leveraging natural resources, pursuing regional integration, and attract-

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ing foreign direct investment (FDI). A significant focus was placed on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its potential to reshape Africa's trade landscape, promote intra-African trade, and draw increased investment to the continent. The lecture also emphasized the importance of incorporating a gender lens into trade initiatives to ensure that women had equal access to economic opportunities and could fully engage in the trade ecosystem.



## September 2024

### The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi: Main Results and Next Steps

Sofía Boza serves as the Ambassador of Chile to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC) beginning in July 2022. Upon her appointment, she took on the co-coordination of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO. From May 2023 to May 2024, she chaired the WTO Working Group on Trade and Technology Transfer, and as of April 2024, she assumed the role of Chair of the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Before her diplomatic career, Boza was an associate professor and head of the Department of Rural Management and Innovation at the University of Chile, and also a professor at the Institute of International Studies at the same institution.

She worked as an external evaluator of public policies for the Budget Office of the Chilean Ministry of Finance.

Her areas of specialization included agricultural policy and governance, rural development, food markets, and international trade. She was a visiting fellow at the World Trade Institute at the University of Bern, and an expert instructor at the Institute of Food Laws and Regulations at Michigan State University.

## May 2024

### Enhanced Integrated Framework at the World Trade Organization

The final Global Economic Governance (GEG) seminar of the Spring 2024 semester featured Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) at the World Trade Organization and a distinguished MILE alumnus. In this session, Mr. Adhikari addressed the unique value proposition of the EIF within the global Aid for Trade agenda, highlighting its achievements in least developed countries (LDCs) and discussing how those successes could be replicated in other contexts. He also

explored how Aid for Trade could adapt to the evolving trade and investment landscape, emphasizing the need for flexibility and innovation in addressing new global challenges.

Mr. Adhikari had been serving as Executive Director of the EIF Executive Secretariat at the WTO since October 2013. Before taking on this role, he led the Kathmandu-based regional think tank, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), as its Chief Executive Director. His earlier roles included serving as a Senior Adviser to Nepal's National Planning Commission and as a Trade Programme Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## March 2024

### Areas of Work of the WTO Secretariat

The second Global Economic Governance (GEG) seminar of 2024 featured Ms. Arti Gobind Daswani, a lawyer from the Market Access Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO), who delivered a presentation on the various areas

of work undertaken by the WTO Secretariat. During the session, she discussed her role supporting the Council for Trade in Goods and the Committee on Customs Valuation, as well as her involvement in developing AI guidelines and leading an internal AI interest group at the WTO. Drawing on her broad experience within the organization, Ms. Daswani reflected on her previous roles across several WTO divisions, including the Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, the Legal Affairs Division, the Agriculture and Commodities Division's SPS Section, the Trade Facilitation Section, and the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation. She also spoke about her work as a trade policy advisor to developing countries during their accession to the WTO and her contributions to arbitration panels in trade disputes. Ms. Daswani holds a law degree from the Universidad de Chile and a Master's in EU Law from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.



## Brown Bag Seminars

The World Trade Institute hosted 14 Brown Bag Seminars in 2024. Brown Bag Seminars are a place for students, researchers and staff to interact with innovative and new research publications and serve as a forum for exchange and idea generation.

Hosted by Prof. Dr. Manfred Elsig, the Brown Bag Seminars for 2024 were organized by Wafaa Saadeh, PhD Candidate, and Beichen Ding, PhD candidate

Can International Institutions Bypass Spoiler Members? The Case of the Trade Regime and the MPIA	Krzysztof Pelc, Oxford University
The Information Economy: Media Usage, Political Networks, and Public Attitudes Toward Inflation, Unemployment, and Recession	Marc Copelovitch, University of Wisconsin-Madison
International trade law and international investment law: avenues for addressing cross-border data flows?	Niels Lachmann, University of Southern Denmark
Tailored Protectionism – How Big Firms Shape Non-Tariff Measures	Christian Winkler, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)
Empowered Young Women: Trade Liberalization and Women's Family Decisions in China	Yuan Zi, Geneva Graduate Institute
Fields and Foreign Lands: Pre-industrial Climate Risk and International Migration	Miriam Manchin, Politecnico di Milano
The CBAM Regulation and the US BCA proposals – between the GATT non-discrimination obligations and the CBDR-RC principle	Rachele Magnaghi, University of Milan



Renminbi Rising? Exporters' Response to China's Currency Internationalization	Dr. Sonali Chowdhry, the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin), Research Fellow at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy
Navigating the AI Frontier in International Trade Law: The Role of the WTO's TBT Agreement	Milena da Fonseca Azevedo, University of Sao Paulo (USP)
Third-Party Funding in the Era of Arbitration Reform and ESG: What Lies Ahead?	Lucas Macedo, Nivalion
Shared Understandings and Legitimacy: Ingredients to the Evolution of Border Carbon Adjustment Compliance	Laurie Durel, University of Bern
World Trade, Child Labour and Transnational Constitutionalism – The Case for a New Legal Humanism	Dr PD Franziska Humbert, University of Halle
US versus Them? Reciprocal Benefits and Public Support for International Law	Andrew Lugg, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Innovation on the peripheries of the trade regime: insights from PTA side letters	Matt Castle, Victoria University of Wellington

## Trade and the Quest for Accountability: Perspectives and Challenges

Our annual flagship conference, co-organized with the Global Governance Program at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Sciences (European University Institute), brings together researchers and practitioners working in the area of trade, investment and development. This year's World Trade Forum was hosted in Bern. More than 120 participants from academia, international organizations and governments attended.

The insights gained from this year's World Trade Forum can contribute to better understanding the challenges facing how to shape policies and strategies for businesses and governments worldwide. The forum reaffirmed its position as a platform for thought leaders in the trade sector, committed to advancing economic growth, sustainability, and equitable trade practices. Looking ahead, WTI remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive and forward-thinking trade environment, ensuring continued engagement and dialogue among global stakeholders.

## World Trade Forum

*25 years of the World Trade Institute*



*We look forward to welcoming you in Florence, Italy for the 2025 World Trade Forum!*



## The WTO Public Forum

The Public Forum is the WTO's largest outreach event, providing a unique platform for interested stakeholders from around the world to discuss the latest developments in global trade and to propose ways of enhancing the multilateral trading system. The event attracts over 2,000 representatives each year from civil society, academia, business, government, international organizations and the media.

At the WTO Public Forum, the WTI was present with the newest class of MILE and TRAIL+ students and leaders from the World Trade Institute were actively engaged with different sessions like Disability Inclusive Trade: Leveraging Digital Technologies to Make Trade Work for All where Prof. Dr. Peter Van den Bossche participated as a speaker. Students participated in two separate debates: Greener and Inclusive Economies in the Name of Re-globalization: Mutual Supportiveness of Government and Private Approaches and the Debate on the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions

Congratulations on winning the public debate against the Geneva Graduate Institute at the World Trade Organization's Public Forum. Our Gauri Tyagi and Anand Nandakumar were awarded the best speakers at the debate.



## Sponsorships

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Every year, the WTI seeks to support young and professional talent from around the world. Because of this, we sponsor three key events. Winning teams are awarded scholarships to participate in the Master programs or Winter and Summer Academies.

### John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

The winning teams of the regional round and final oral round are awarded scholarships to the WTI's Summer or Winter Academy. The best orator at the final oral round was awarded a full tuition waiver for the TRAIL+ program. WTI alumni supported the Moot Court Competition as panelists.

### Model WTO

The Model WTO is the biggest stimulation of the WTO's Ministerial negotiations in the world. The members of the winning team are offered the chance to receive a one-week tuition fee waiver for a Winter or Summer

Academy course, during which they can engage and learn from world-class experts on the latest trade and investment issues.

### Gujarat International Moot Court Competition

The winning team was awarded scholarships to the WTI Summer or Winter Academy. Here too WTI alumni supported the Moot Court Competition as panelists.





# Financials

## Financial account for 2024 (in CHF, rounded)

### INCOME

#### External funds

Programme income	926,000
Other income (services)	103,000
<b>Total external funds</b>	<b>1,029,000</b>

#### University funds

Contributions to office rent <sup>1</sup>	0
Contributions to personnel expenditure	566,000
Contributions to operating expenses	74,000
<b>Total university funds</b>	<b>+5,000</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>645,000</b>

### EXPENDITURE

#### Personnel

Salaries	2,295,000
Social benefits	479,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>2,921,000</b>

#### Other Expenditure

Office rent <sup>1</sup>	0
Office operating expenses	566,000
Travel	74,000
Miscellaneous	+5,000
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>645,000</b>

<b>Accruals</b>	<b>-479,000</b>
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,921,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Paid directly by the university administration.

The WTI is constituted as a centre 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.













**World Trade Institute  
University of Bern**

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