

Trade and Sustainable Development

Co-teachers: Prof. Damian Raess (WTI) and Dora Sari (University of Geneva and Harvard University)
(75%-25%)

Course description:

This course will address the key economic and policy linkages between international trade and sustainable development. It will focus primarily on the nexus between trade and the Sustainable Development Goal #8 on decent work and (inclusive and sustained) economic growth. It will start with an introduction to the concept of sustainable socio-economic development, and globalization theories and practice, followed by an empirical impact evaluation of international trade (and investment). From there it will explore linkages between trade, decent work and growth, address issues of distributive fairness related to trade liberalization, and highlight some of the concerns that developing countries have with the decent work agenda. It will discuss specific topic (e.g. the China effect) and cover public and private approaches to protecting labor standards under globalization, specifically strategies to link and enforce labor standards through trade (agreements) and the role of transnational private regulation (voluntary sustainability standards) in improving labor standards in global supply chains. It will also focus on the multilateral system of labor governance, namely the role of the International Labour Organisation in setting, promoting and upholding international labor standards. If time permits, linkages between trade and the environment and sustainable development more generally will be addressed.