

## NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Series

Jesus Crespo Cuaresma, Professor of Economics, Vienna University of Economics and Business

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOREST COVER: EVIDENCE FROM SATELLITE DATA

Thursday, 30 March 2017, 12.30 – 13.30

Anna Nussbaum Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern  
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

#### Abstract

Ongoing deforestation is a pressing, global environmental issue with direct impacts on climate change, carbon emissions, and biodiversity. There is an intuitive link between economic development and overexploitation of natural resources including forests, but this relationship has proven difficult to establish empirically due to both inadequate data and convoluting geo-climatic factors. In this analysis, we use satellite data on forest cover along national borders in order to study the determinants of deforestation differences across countries. Controlling for trans-border geo-climatic differences, we find that income per capita is the most robust determinant of differences in cross-border forest cover. We show that the marginal effect of per capita income growth on forest cover is strongest at the earliest stages of economic development, and weakens in more advanced

economies, presenting some of the strongest evidence to date for the existence of at least half of an environmental Kuznets curve for deforestation.

#### Biography of the Speaker

Jesus Crespo Cuaresma is Director of Economic Analysis at the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (WIC), Professor of Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), as well as and Research Scholar at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He studied Economics at the University of Sevilla (Spain) and received his PhD from the University of Vienna. He has published numerous articles in renowned scientific journals and acts as a scientific consultant to the World Bank and the Austrian Institute of Economic Research.

**Participation is free of charge, no registration is needed.**

**We warmly welcome you to join our seminar at the World Trade Institute!**

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Seminars are 30-minute presentations, given by external or in-house researchers. The presentations are followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. The Brown Bag concept comes from the US; it means that people bring their own lunch and eat it during the presentation.