

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

[Preliminary draft program](#)

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Day 1 – Friday, September 18

- 8:15-08:50 **Registration at the World Trade Institute**
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern
- 9:15-9:20 **Opening remarks**
Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern
- 9:20-10:50 **Plenary I: Europe, Innovation vs. Protectionism**
Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (*in-person only*)
- Chair Iana Dreyer, Borderlex
Panelists Marion Jansen, OECD
 Sabine Weyand, EU Commission and EUI
 Peter Flückiger, Swiss Textiles
 Pascal Kerneis, European Services Forum
 Arno Hold, Novartis
- 11:00-11:15 Coffee Break, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern
- 11:15-12:45 **Parallel 1: LLMs and Economic Agreements**
Organized by the World Trade Institute and Uni Salzburg
Room: 205, third floor, WTI (in-person only)
- Chair Manfred Elsig, University of Bern
Panelists Andreas Dür, University of Salzburg
 Kirthana Ganeson, University of Bern
 Julieta Contreras, University of Bern
 Leonardo Rodrigues, University of Bern
Discussants Kathleen Claussen, Georgetown University
 Inu Manak, Peterson Institute for International Economics
- 11:15-12:45 **Parallel 2: Trade and Sustainability**
Organized by Wyss Academy and the World Trade Institute
Room Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)
- Chair Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Panelists Fernando Fernández, Wyss Academy
 Rodrigo Fagundes Cezar, FGV
 Charline Depoorter, University of Basel
 Julia Gubler, University of Bern
 Utkarsh Uprety, University of Bern
 Noah Wheatley, University of Bern
Discussant Werner Zdouc, University of Bern
- 11.15-12.45 **Parallel 3: New research outlooks on services and digital policies**
Organized by OECD
Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)
- Chair Marion Jansen, OECD
Panelists Roberto Echandi, World Bank Group
 Javier Lopez Gonzalez, OECD

	<u>Discussants</u> Robert Basedow, London School of Economics Jane Drake Brockman, Australian Services Roundtable (tbc) Michelle Cooper, Global Affairs Canada
13:00-14:00	Lunch at the cafeteria at the Gesellschaftsstrasse 3, 3012 Bern
14:10-15:40	Plenary II: Global Trade Disorder: Trends and Opportunities Room F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (<i>in-person only</i>)
	<u>Chair</u> Pierre Sauvé, University of Bern <u>Panelists</u> Helene Budliger, 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
15:44-16:10	Coffee Break, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern
16:10-17:40	Parallel 4: Beyond Market Access: Making Trade Preferences Work in a Fragmenting World <i>Organized by German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)</i> <i>Room Silva Casa, WTI</i> 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 (TBC) Quynh Nguyen, Wyss Academy
16:10-17:40	Parallel 5: Technical regulations and trade <i>Organized by the World Trade Institute, World Bank Group, World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</i> <i>Room 205, upstairs, WTI (in-person only)</i>
	<u>Chair</u> Octavio Fernández-Amador, University of Bern Maryla Maliszewska, World Bank Group <u>Panelists</u> Achim Vogt, World Bank Group Erik Wijkstrom, World Trade Organization Christian Knebel, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Irene Iodice, City St George's, University of London
	<u>Discussants</u> Melvin Spreij, World Trade Organization Camille Reverdy, Geneva Graduate Institute
16:10-17:40	Parallel 6: Trade and Trade Wars <i>Organized by the University of Bern and the University of St. Gallen</i> <i>Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI</i> Online participation possible
	<u>Chair</u> Aydin Yildirim, University of St Gallen <u>Panelists</u> Julian Hinz, Kiel Institute Kieran Walsh, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Joseph Francois, World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Discussants Miriam Manchin, University College London
Maximilian von Ehrlich, University of Bern
Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute
Marta Santamaria, University of Warwick

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 VanGrassteck, Washington Trade Report
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 and World Bank Group
Julian 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, University of Bern
Panelists Tristan Kohl, University of Groningen
Lukas Linsi, University of Groningen
Nicolas Lamp, Queen's University
Discussants: Maarten Smeets, University of Bern
Longyue Zhao, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Reception

11:30-13:00 Plenary III: The New Economic Statecraft
Room: Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Michael Hahn, University of Bern
Speakers Markus Schlagenhof, European Free Trade Association
Stephanie Rickard, London School of Economics

Sufian Jusoh, University of Malaysia
Kathleen Claussen, Georgetown University

13:00-13:05

Closing remarks, *Room: Silva Casa, WTI*

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