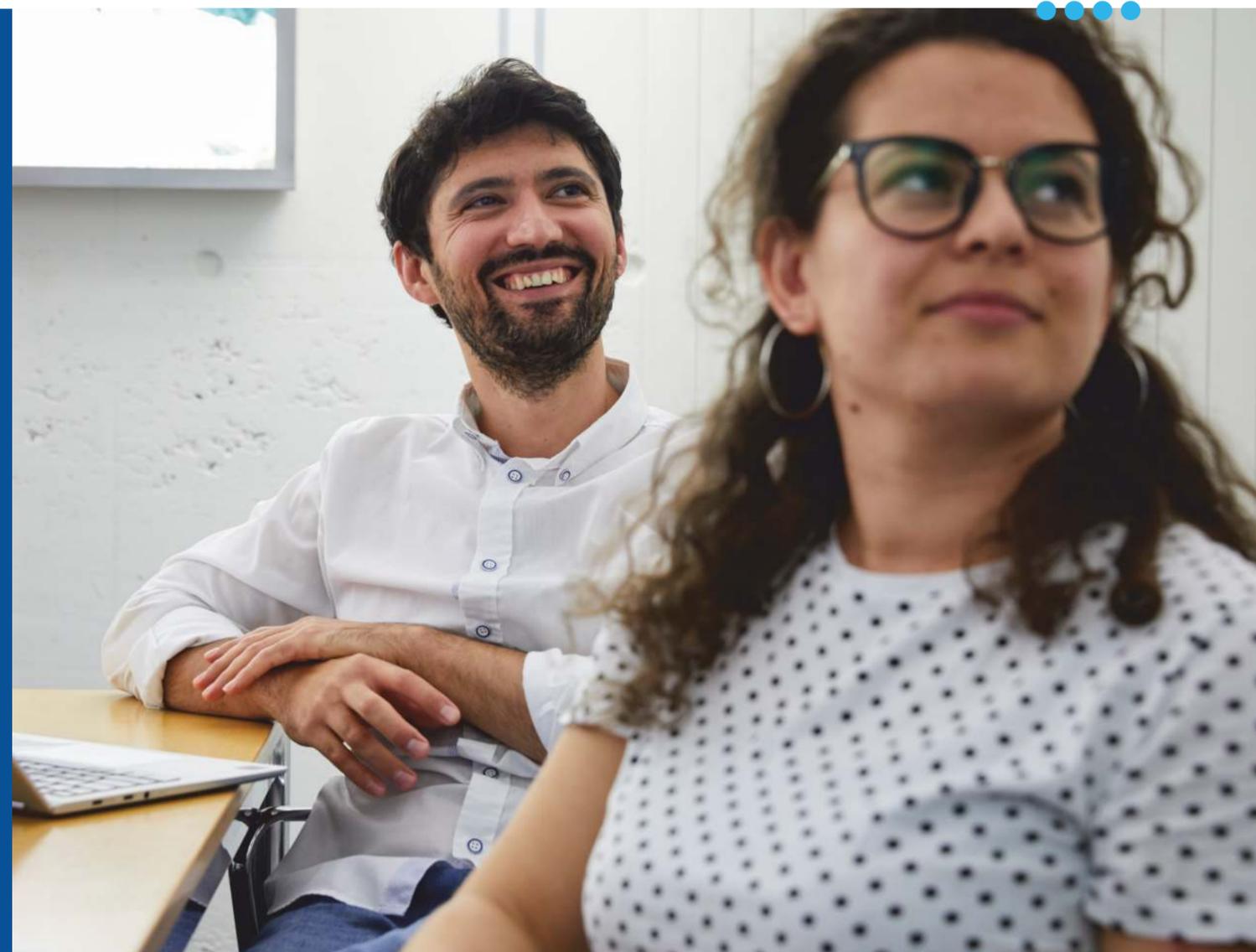


World Trade Institute

Annual Report 2019



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www.wti.org



From the Managing Director

2019 has been an eventful and exciting year for the WTI. We continued our outreach activities through both new global cooperation agreements and strengthening of existing partnerships. We have entered into cooperation agreements with Fudan University, Shanghai, the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), New Delhi, and Amity University, New Delhi. We also strengthened our cooperation with the above mentioned institutions, the National Law School University of India, Bangalore, India, and Wuhan University, China, and continued delivering tailor-made training programmes to government officials both in Bern and internationally, and hosted numerous events and special lectures for students, alumni, diplomats and the public.

We continued our Global Economic Governance Seminar Series with stimulating presentations by Robert Anderson, Victoria Donaldson, Edwini Kessie and Nilüfer Oral among others. In the context of the two courses taught by Peter Van den Bossche, we also had the pleasure of welcoming back Mira Burri, Rahul Donde, Ilaria Espa, Christian Häberli, Paolo Vergano and Werner Zdouc, who gave guest lectures to the MILE and TRAIL+ students. Our events calendar is constantly growing, and you can stay up to date with us by visiting the Events page on our website. You can also check out the Events section in this report for an overview of our 2019 events.

On the scientific front, WTI researchers have continued publishing on the multilateral trading system and global economic governance. New research projects were started as well, in addition to ongoing projects. Details can be found in the report.



On the education front, we have further consolidated our new programme structure, in particular the MILE, TRAIL+ and CAS/DAS programmes. Details on developments in these programmes, as well as the Doctoral School and Winter and Summer Academies, can also be found in the report.

We hope you take the opportunity to learn more about our work at the WTI through this annual report. For the most up-to-date information about our institute, including news stories, recent publications and a list of upcoming events, please visit:

www.wti.org



Joseph Francois
Managing Director
World Trade Institute

Table of contents

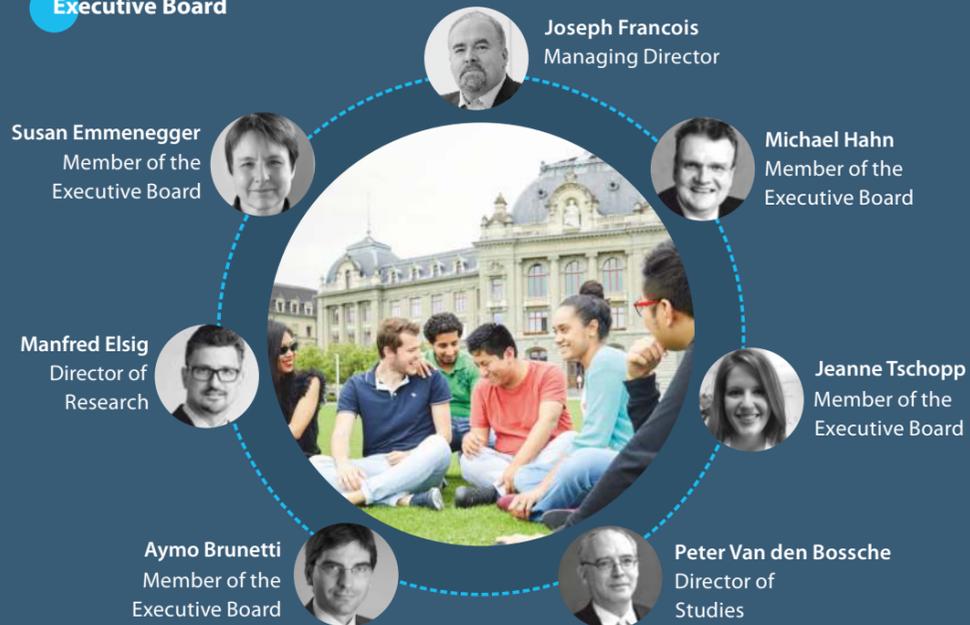
The Institute	4
Highlights of the Year	5
Graduate Programmes	6
Research	10
Outreach	22
Events	25
Alumni	30
Financials	31

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The Institute

The World Trade Institute was established in 1999 to train future practitioners and researchers from all over the world and to strengthen research capacities in the field of international trade and investment regulation. The WTI combines graduate-level education and interdisciplinary research in law, economics and political science, as well as specialised advisory services. We recruit students, researchers, faculty and employees from around the world, creating a diverse culture and stimulating environment.

Executive Board



Administration

Members of the Advisory Board

- Arthur Appleton
- Richard Baldwin
- Thomas Bernauer
- Didier Chambovey
- Thomas Cottier
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- Bernard Hoekman
- Beata Javorcik
- Gabrielle Marceau
- Joakim Reiter



Highlights of the Year

Research Projects

In September 2019, a new research project was started at the WTI: PROSPER - Politics of Rule-making, Orchestration of Standards and Private Economic Regulations. It is a 2-year project funded by the European Commission under the European Union Horizon2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship Programme. The project is run by Dr Aydin Yildirim and hosted by the WTI.

In October 2019, the WTI took part in the World Resources Forum 2019 in Geneva. WTI Managing Director Prof. Joseph Francois spoke on "Switzerland's Sustainable Footprint" at the Workshop on Trade Relations and Sustainability on 23 October. The interactive workshop was organised by NRP 73, a research programme of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

Publications

In 2019 the WTI was pleased to have numerous books, book chapters, articles, datasets and working papers published by our researchers.

All 2019 publications by our researchers can be found on our website:
<https://www.wti.org/research/publications/>

Events

In 2019, the WTI both hosted and co-organised a number of events and activities including workshops, tailor-made training, summer academies, doctoral colloquia, special lectures, larger conferences and smaller seminars.

On 27 June 2019, State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch (SECO) delivered a keynote address on "The Future of the Rules-based Multilateral Trading System: More Reasons for Gloom than Hope?" at the Closing Ceremony of the 2018-2019 Advanced Master's Programmes.

On 11 September 2019, Ambassador Ujal Singh Bhatia, India's Permanent Representative to the WTO from 2004 to 2010, delivered the keynote

lecture on "The Parlous State of Trade Multilateralism" at the Opening Ceremony of the 2019-20 Advanced Master's Programmes.

From 12 to 14 September 2019, the WTI hosted the 20th annual conference of the European Trade Study Group (ETSG), the world's largest international trade conference. Of special note is also the annual World Trade Forum, which the WTI co-organised with the European University Institute (EUI) and the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) on 25 and 26 October 2019 in Bern. The main theme was on the crises of multilateralism.

Outreach

Our tailor-made training, both at the WTI premises and elsewhere, continued in 2019, and our network of academic and strategic partners was further enlarged. The Indonesian Minister of Trade, Enggartiasto Lukita, visited the WTI on 9 May 2019, where he met with WTI Directors Prof. Joseph Francois, Prof. Manfred Elsig and Prof. Michael Hahn. The Minister was accompanied by H.E. Muliaman Dharmansyah Hadad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia in Bern, H.E. Syamsul Siregar, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the WTO, Mr Iman Pambagyo, Director General for International Trade Negotiation, as well as several other diplomats and journalists.

In February and June 2019, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche signed three Memoranda of Understanding with academic and research institutions in India, Amity University, the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) and the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP).

Education

Due to increased interest in the week-long modules offered in our Summer Academy, the WTI announced in 2018 the creation of the Winter Academy. The first Winter Academy began in January 2019, and as the Summer Academy, features modules that can be taken à la carte on a week-long basis or with the aim of obtaining a certificate or diploma. Both the Winter and Summer Academies cover cutting-edge issues in trade and investment law and policy. They are designed for private and public sector and civil society professionals as well as higher-education students.

Graduate Programmes

MAS in International Law and Economics (MILE)

In 2019, 15 students representing 13 nations finished the coursework of the MILE programme (MILE 19) and another nine students from seven nations embarked on it (MILE 20). A further 54 external participants joined the programme on a weekly basis, through our à la carte offer, to study topics of specific interest to them.

Established in 1999, the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International Law and Economics (MILE) was the first educational offer of the WTI. This programme remains synonymous with the Institute, although it is now just one of a range of programmes offered. This 90 ECTS programme is interdisciplinary in nature and trains students in methodologies and ways of thinking other than those of their initial area of specialisation. The comprehensive knowledge of the law, economics and politics of international trade and investment, which students acquire through the MILE programme, prepares them well for work in international organisations, government ministries, academic institutions, global companies and internationally operating law firms.

The tuition fee for the MILE programme is **21,000 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the MILE programme, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/master/mile

LL.M. in Trade and Investment Law & DAS in International Law and Economics (TRAIL+)

In 2019, ten students representing six nations finished the coursework of the TRAIL+ programme (TRAIL+ 2) and another seven

The **John H. Jackson Internship Fund** continued into its third year in 2019, providing financial support to a WTI master's student undertaking a three-month internship of an interdisciplinary nature that would otherwise be unpaid. The fund consists of generous contributions made by the family of the late Prof. Jackson and WTI faculty members. The Selection Committee, chaired by Dr Lee Ann Jackson, awarded the 2019 John H. Jackson Internship Prize to Amrit Onkar Bhatia of India. The award enabled him to pursue an internship at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington D.C. The centre provides facilities for the conciliation and arbitration of international investment disputes and is one of the five organisations of the World Bank Group.

students from two nations embarked on it (TRAIL+ 3).

Established in 2017, the TRAIL+ programme combines a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Trade and Investment Law (LL.M.) with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. This programme is offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. The programme includes more law courses and fewer courses in economics and political science than the MILE programme. A total of 60 ECTS are required to fulfil the LL.M. requirement while an additional 30 ECTS must be completed in the social science courses of the WTI to fulfil the DAS requirement. The in-depth knowledge of the law of international trade and investment combined with the understanding of the related economics and politics, which students acquire through the TRAIL+ programme, prepares them well for work as lawyers in the public or private sector or as legal scholars.

The tuition fee for the TRAIL+ programme is **21,000 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the TRAIL+ (LL.M.) programme, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/master/trail



For more information about the CAS ILE and DAS ILE programmes, please visit our website:

www.wti.org/education/other/cas-das-programmes

CAS/DAS in International Law and Economics

In 2019, seven persons were pursuing the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics.

The CAS and DAS programmes are open to participants with undergraduate degrees and relevant professional experience, with applications being accepted on a rolling basis. Participants who complete 8 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper may be awarded a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics.

Participants who complete 22 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper may be awarded a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. CAS/DAS students benefit from the mentorship of a senior WTI academic advisor during the duration of their study.

The tuition fee is **4,000 Swiss francs** for the CAS ILE, and **10,000 Swiss francs** for the DAS ILE.

Winter and Summer Academy

Since 2019, the WTI offers both a Winter and Summer Academy. The WTI's first-ever Winter Academy took place from 21 January until 15 February 2019. Course topics included: WTO Law on Border Management and Trade Facilitation; WTO Law on Internal Taxation and Regulation versus National Policy Space; WTO Law on Anti-Dumping and Safeguard Measures; and WTO Law on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. The Summer Academy ran from 9 until 27 July and included courses on Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection; Latest Developments in International Investment Law and Dispute Settlement; Trade and Agriculture: New Challenges; and Applied General Equilibrium Modelling on Trade Policy and Development. 54 students participated in both academies.

Tuition for one week is **1,200 Swiss francs**, for two weeks **2,200 Swiss francs** and for three weeks **3,200 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the Winter and Summer Academies, please visit our website:

www.wti.org/education/other/winter-and-summer-programmes





Doctoral Programme

In 2019, two students joined the WTI Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration to start their PhD research in law and economics. Beatrice Nybert and Jenny Surbeck completed and successfully defended their PhD theses on “The Evolution of Patent Law Enforcement” and “Intellectual Property Rights in Preferential Trade Agreements: Design and Effects” respectively. At the end of 2019, the Graduate School comprised 32 PhD students, of whom 16 were women. The majority were law students (22), followed by students of economics (6) and political science (4).

In 2019, the WTI organised two PhD colloquia. 14 students presented their work in March, and six students presented their research in September, to receive feedback from their supervisors, WTI faculty, and fellow PhD students. In August and September 2019, PhD students also attended a seminar on scientific writing by Marc Matter.

Following the positive experience with the PhD Summer School in previous years, the WTI

offered three week-long, PhD Summer School courses in 2019, namely a course on “Economic Network Analysis” by Prof. Peter Egger, Professor of Applied Economics, ETH Zurich, on “Institutions and the Political Economy of Development” by Prof. Axel Dreher, Professor of Economics, University of Heidelberg and on “State Responsibility” by Prof. Tarcisio Gazzini, Professor of International Law, University of East Anglia. In total, 23 PhD students from Swiss and other European universities attended one or more of the 2019 PhD Summer School courses.

In 2019, the WTI’s Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration initiated cooperation with the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) to enable PhD students at USI to participate in PhD courses and seminars offered at the WTI.

For more information about the Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/doctoral-programme



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

The 6th edition of the Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy took place from 3 to 28 June 2019 in New Delhi, India. It was organised by the WTI and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). This year, 23 students from 14 Indian law colleges from all over the country and five legal professionals from various law practices participated in the programme. The Academy was convened by the WTI’s Director of Studies, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, Mr Rajeev Kher, former Commerce Secretary Government of India, Prof. Abhijit Das, Head CWS and Prof. Shailja Singh, Legal Consultant CWS.



For more information about the WTI-CWS Joint Academy, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/other/winter-and-summer-programmes

The four-week Academy was taught jointly by faculty members of the WTI and Indian institutions, ensuring international and Indian perspectives on the various topics. The courses ranged from essentials of WTO Law and Policy, Investment Law, Trade in Services, Intellectual Property Rights and the Agreement on Agriculture, to Trade Remedies, and gave the students a good introduction to international trade regulation and global economic governance.

As in previous years, the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi organised a presentation and reception at their premises for Joint Academy students, WTI alumni, and other professionals working in the trade field. Prof. Van den Bossche was invited to give a speech on “World Trade without (Enforceable) Rules? The Existential Crisis of WTO Dispute Settlement”.

The Joint Academy was established by the WTI and CWS in 2014 to enable law students and legal professionals in India to increase their knowledge of and exposure to issues pertinent to international trade regulation and economic governance.



The Governance of Big Data in Trade Agreements: Design, Diffusion and Implications

This research project is part of the National Research Programme (NRP) 75 Big Data. It brings together a small interdisciplinary research team under the leadership of PD Dr. Mira Burri (University of Lucerne) and Prof. Manfred Elsig, and examines the pertinent trade rules that impinge on Big Data. The three-year project started in May 2017 and seeks to offer cutting-edge research and to contribute to the public debate.

The project has three discrete but interlinked objectives: (1) to map all the existing rules of relevance for Big Data applications in international, regional and bilateral trade agreements; (2) to trace how certain regulatory solutions and models have evolved over time and what the political forces driving these choices have been, employing both legal and political science methodologies; (3) to inform the debate on how decision-makers should use the instruments of international trade law to better reflect the changes in the digital economy and take account of important public interests, notably the protection of privacy.

In addressing the first task, the project team collected all publicly available preferential trade agreements (PTAs) based on the Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) database. The collection started with treaties concluded since 2000, which marks the introduction of the European Union Directive on E-commerce (2000) and the United States Digital Agenda (2002). For the purpose of mapping the specific provisions of these treaties that are relevant for Big Data, a codebook was developed. During 2017 and 2018, the Big Data team collected data to create a new database called "Trade Agreement Provisions on E-commerce and Data Flows" (TAPED). The database consists of 345 PTAs of which 182 have concrete e-commerce or data flow-related provisions.

The project has an annual budget of 183,258 Swiss francs and a duration of three years.



Further information on the project and the TAPED database is available here:
<https://www.unilu.ch/en/faculties/faculty-of-law/professorships/managing-director-internationalisation/research/taped/>



Common Concern

This research project studies the potential of the legal concept of 'Common Concern of Humankind' (CCH) to emerge as a normative principle in international law, guiding the conduct of states and bringing about international cooperation in dealing with shared problems (e.g. monetary regulation, climate change, human rights crises, the distribution of income, and wealth within states) that require collective action. It is led by Prof. em. Thomas Cottier who, as the principal investigator, is also engaged in the development of the theoretical framework of Common Concern. Doctoral researchers are undertaking individual case studies in monetary regulation, low-carbon technology transfer, human rights issues and the distribution of income and wealth within states.

The project focuses on two issues in particular. First, from a theoretical point of view, it seeks to establish interconnections between CCH on the one hand, and the economic concepts of public good and multilevel governance on the other. Based on the evolution of the concept,

this part emphasises the need for international law to recognise and develop Common Concern as a legal principle calling for enhanced cooperation, and domestic as well as extraterritorial action. Second, separate case studies undertaken by the project's PhD students test the concept's suitability to resolve collective action problems in four different areas.

The PhD candidates working in this project advance with their individual research projects, which are scheduled to be submitted in 2020.

In 2019, the book proposal submitted by the project for the publication with Cambridge University Press was accepted. It is expected that this edited volume will be published by the end of 2020.

The project, initially expected to run for three years, was launched in 2015 with an annual financial package of approximately 173,463 Swiss francs granted by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The project duration was extended to mid-2019.

Complexity and the Structure and Regulation of Trade and Investment

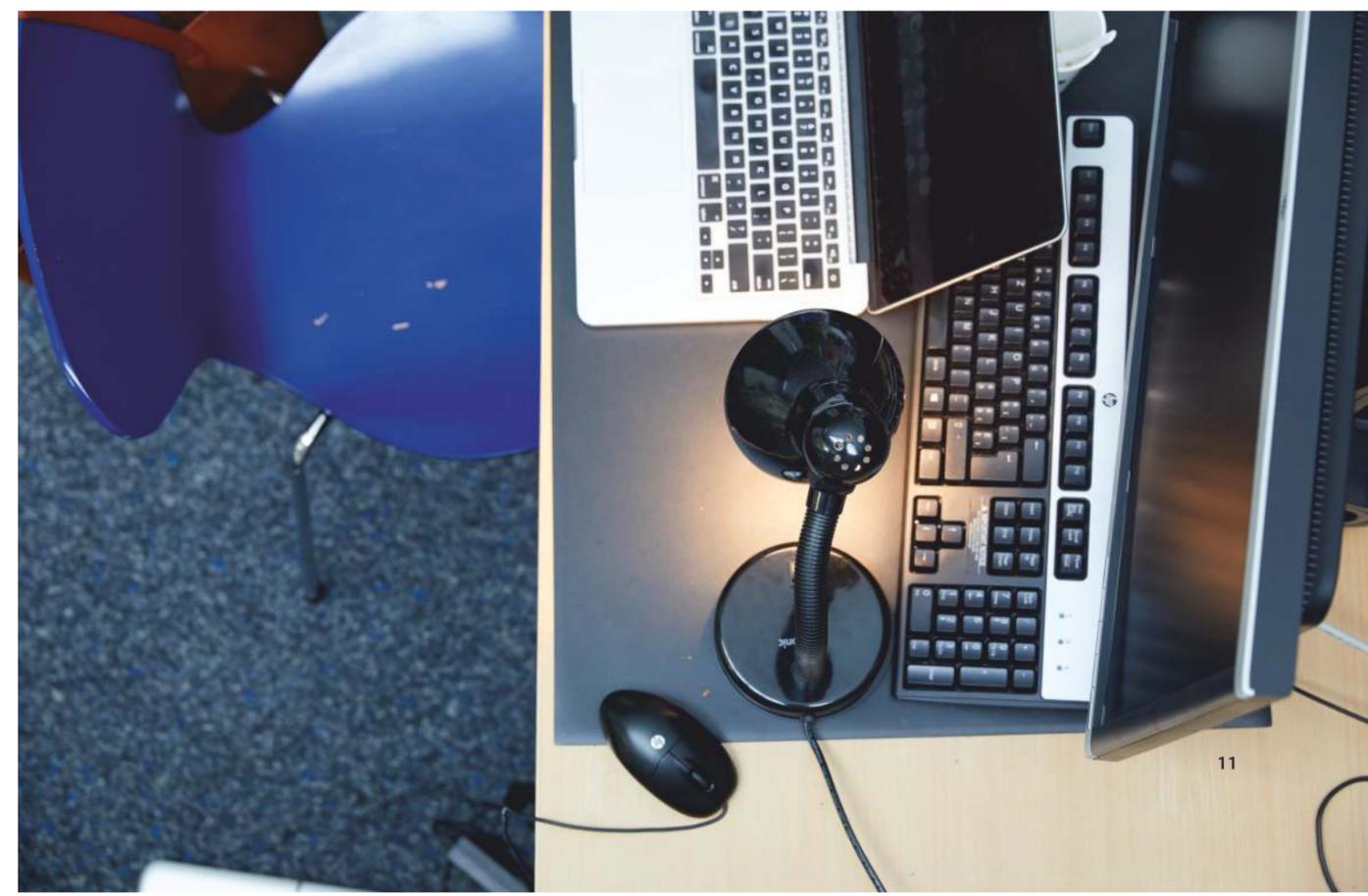
The main objective of this research project is the analysis of the relationship between changes in the institutional architecture governing trade and investment flows and the

emergence of Global Value Chains (GVCs).

Following revolutionary advances in information technology that occurred in the early 90s, the production of goods and services underwent changes that radically altered the world's economic and political landscape. The lower cost of transferring ideas and technology resulted in the fragmentation of production across countries and continents.

Simultaneously, countries increasingly turned to bilateral foreign economic policy in order to foster their participation in the global production system. This resulted in a complex web of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and investment agreements (IAs), which themselves increased in complexity due to the development of provisions included in those agreements. This gave rise to the trade and investment development nexus, which is the objective of analysis of the project. Methodologically, it will partly be based on techniques that are suitable for the analysis of complex systems.

The first year of the project was dedicated to the processing and merging of different data sources and to a comprehensive literature review of different methodologies and concepts used in computer science and biology to characterise complex systems. Databases of PTAs (DESTA) and IAs (EDIT) were integrated and analysed. The purpose of such an exercise is to provide a comprehensive and holistic



descriptive view of the different modes of institutional regional integration that govern trade and investment flows. On the investment and trade flows side, recent advances in disaggregating gross bilateral trade into value added components at the sectoral level were reviewed and applied to multiregional input-output data. Following this initial phase of the project, the relation between the evolution of countries' positions in the complex world economic production system and their policies will be further analysed.

The project is under the leadership of Prof. Joseph Francois, and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). It runs from 2017 to 2021 and has funding of 465,220 Swiss francs.

EDIT

The Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT) is a new comprehensive full text database on international investment agreements (IIAs). Its goal is to facilitate informed public discourse, evidence-based reform, and academic study of the international investment regime by providing unprecedented access to the most extensive set of IIA texts to date.

As a fully machine-readable database, EDIT allows for efficient search through all IIAs, including through pre-defined content categories. All texts have been standardized and are now available in one single language (English) and format (XML). In addition, EDIT embraces a Wiki model whereby users can correct and help improve the data.

Treaty texts were collected, digitised and non-English texts translated through machine translation software. Articles and paragraphs of the agreements were categorised using different techniques (automated labelling and based on a keyword dictionary, as well as on manual annotation).

The project used texts and metadata of international investment agreements (IIAs) found in governmental webpages, as well as in open databases, notably UNCTAD's International Investment Agreement Navigator, and transformed them into a machine-readable format that allows analysis on the article, chapter or treaty-level of the IIAs texts. In the process of collecting these agreements, the project team found some 'missing investment treaties' that were not previously available in other databases. All IIAs that were not found in English were translated into that language, using machine and manual translation.



All available texts of IIAs are included in EDIT, regardless if they are currently in force. Through this database, the project team aims to support researchers, scholars, students, practitioners, international organisations, policy-makers, civil society members and other stakeholders in their work and studies concerning international investment law. The forthcoming website will be an on-going collaborative effort that can involve academia and international organisations. All users can correct or improve the data, following the Wiki model.

The EDIT webpage is available as a free service by the World Trade Institute at <https://edit.wti.org/document/investment-treaty/search>. EDIT was developed during the implementation of the SNIS-funded project "Diffusion of International Law: A Textual Analysis of International Investment Agreements" (2015–2017), in cooperation with the University of Ottawa (Prof. Wolfgang Alschner) through funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the World Bank. From the WTI, Prof. Manfred Elsig and Dr Rodrigo Polanco are co-leaders of EDIT.

Global Value Chains and Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements

Global value chains (GVCs) of multinational enterprises are complex and encompass different cross-border supply relationships that include various forms of trade, investment, and strategic partnerships. Yet, the complexity of

these relationships and their interactions are not always fully understood, and there is a widespread perception that they may not be comprehensively and coherently addressed in international frameworks such as preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The objective of this project is to develop a more comprehensive and nuanced coding of GVC-related provisions in PTAs, and to assess their coherence across relevant provisions as well as between agreements.

This project under the supervision of Prof. Manfred Elsig builds on the existing Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) dataset and uses inputs from the EDIT dataset on bilateral investment treaties, and the Big Data project, particularly the database entitled "Trade Agreement Provisions on E-commerce and Data Flows" (TAPED).

By the end of 2019, the project finished coding over 210 variables related to GVCs in PTAs such as investment chapters, provisions on market access for goods and services, entry of business persons, e-commerce and data flows, capital movement and exchange rates, intellectual property rights, regulatory cooperation, and transparency and competition, in over 690 PTAs.

The data will be made public in the course of the 2020. In collaboration with colleagues at the OECD, a research note and a technical date to describe the database are developed.



Switzerland's Sustainability Footprint: Economic and Legal Challenges

This research project is part of the NRP 73 and is directed by Prof. Joseph Francois. Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the project runs from 2017 to 2021 and has funding of 863,950 Swiss francs. In this year, the research team completed the tasks of work packages 1 and 4, and started the tasks for work package 3. With respect to the work package 3, the project team collaborates with the World Trade Organization in the development of carbon dioxide, methane and energy projections.

Within the work package 1, the researchers developed and revised international footprint inventories datasets on energy, Carbon Dioxide and Methane emissions, forest and land use and water use. These inventories contain environmental footprint indicators based on territorial production, final production, and consumption patterns for the years 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2011, and 2014. Additionally, cantonal input output and environmental accounts were developed for the same years.

The authors carried out applied analysis using these datasets, and three articles were published in scientific journals since the last report. The first one analyzed the patterns of convergence of Carbon Dioxide emissions and was published in *Environmental and Resource Economics*. There, the authors address international convergence in carbon dioxide emissions per capita and per value added derived from emission inventories based on production and consumption patterns. The results highlight the current incompatibility between emission targets and economic growth and the need for faster diffusion of green technologies. Moreover, there is no evidence for specific convergence dynamics in the European Union, the OECD, or the countries that are subject to binding emission constraints specified in the Kyoto Protocol. The institutional frameworks implemented in industrialized countries did not induce faster convergence among developed economies.

Two other published articles analyze methane emissions. The first one, published in *Ecological Economics*, presents the dataset of methane inventories constructed. Several stylized facts related to methane emissions are then presented. First, anthropogenic methane emissions are quantitatively important for global warming and increased by about 18%



from 1997 to 2014. Second, the bulk of produced emissions is attributable to developing economies, though a considerable amount is exported mainly via manufactured goods to high income countries, which are net-importers of methane. Third, trade-embodied emissions increased by 8% more than nationally produced emissions during 1997–2014, with the strongest increase experienced by China, India, and Indonesia. Fourth, decompositions of the growth rate of emissions over this period suggest that methane efficiency improved, but the effect of these efficiency gains on total emissions was outweighed by the effect of economic and population growth in low- and middle-income countries. In high-income countries, by contrast, methane efficiency gains were larger the effect of economic and population growth.

The second article, published in the journal *Applied Economics*, on methane emissions analyzes the impacts of economic growth on

methane emissions per capita at the sectoral level for the period 1997–2014. The analysis covers three stages of the supply chain, distinguishing between emissions embodied in production, final production, and consumption. The authors investigate the effects of economic growth on two components of methane emissions per capita, namely methane emissions per unit of value added and value added per capita. This study uncovers substantial heterogeneity across sectors. Economic growth led to expansions of economic activity in all sectors but reduced the methane intensity of sectoral value added in some sectors. In sectors that experienced pronounced reductions in methane intensity, economic growth did not strongly affect emissions per capita. However, in the absence of large methane-intensity gains, economic growth raised emission per capita substantially.

In work package 4, a case study on Swiss-based private sustainability standards with

requirements on environmental sustainability has been conducted. One core aim of this analysis is to provide recommendations for a Swiss negotiating position on green labeling in the relevant WTO committee.

The project team performed a two-fold legal analysis to examine whether the schemes at scrutiny are captured by current WTO rules: (1) a qualitative analysis of the landscape of Swiss private sustainability standards; (2) an investigation into whether government incentives to or participation in such standards' adoption and implementation can be discerned. The results indicate substantial sectoral differences as regards Swiss-based private sustainability standards' number and their level of exposure to WTO scrutiny. These distinctions correlate with state measures restricting foreign competition in the Swiss market. Trade concerns arise in the sectors of agriculture and cosmetics: the majority of Swiss-based private sustainability standards in place exclude foreign products from certification. The results of work package 4 will be published in a policy brief and a policy report in 2020. In addition, a doctoral thesis with the working title 'Private sustainability standards and the WTO: A case study from Switzerland' is being prepared.

The team of researchers participated in several outreach activities. The results of the project were presented in the Third Programme Conference organized by the National Research Programme (NRP73) on January 2020, at the workshop International Trade Relations and Sustainability organized by State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) on January 2020, and at an internal workshop organized by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) on February 2020. Prof. Francois represented the research team in the online workshop on Environmental monitoring organized by the NRP 73 on July 2020, where he presented results from the research project. As an initiative of the team of researchers, the World Trade Institute has become a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland. Some research results from the project were presented in the SDSN Assembly that took place on February 2020 in Bern. Also, a research paper was presented in the NOeG Winter workshop 2019 in Vienna (Austria).

Regulatory Heterogeneity in International Trade

The past 50 years have seen an unparalleled reduction of tariff barriers to international trade. Positive experiences from seizing the gains of tariff-free trade have shifted the attention to so-called non-tariff measures (NTMs). The potential gains from reducing trade frictions in this area are expected to be very significant, particularly for small and medium-sized companies, which has put NTMs on the modern trade policy agenda.

In contrast to tariffs, trade frictions induced by NTMs are not necessarily caused by border measures per se, but are the result of differences in the types of regulations set by countries. Oftentimes these have a *raison d'être* other than regulating trade, which makes it not only more complex for trade negotiators as a substance matter, but also potentially politically sensitive. Furthermore, regulatory measures may not exist in isolation but are instead dependent on other measures – together forming a “system” of regulations.

This research project aims to shed some light on heterogeneity and system aspects of NTMs and analyse their impact on international trade flows. Four research questions are guiding the project:

- How can we aggregate NTM data in order to obtain a bilateral indicator that not only reflects the heterogeneity of regulatory “systems” but also includes aspects of measure interdependencies?

- What is the impact of regulatory heterogeneity on international trade flows?
- Is regulatory heterogeneity (or similarity for that matter) a predictor for the depth of trade agreements?
- How can information on NTM interdependencies and regulatory heterogeneity help us to design trade policy scenarios?

Thus, the first stage of the project is concerned with finding alternative measures of NTMs and improving the way they are aggregated in order to quantify regulatory profiles. In the next few months, a database that comprises different NTM indicators currently applied in the literature at several aggregation levels will be made publicly available. It includes well-established descriptive indicators and more recently developed measures of regulatory distance, as well as identification of NTM patterns via principal component analysis and clustering techniques. These indicators are then used to analyse the impact on trade as well as improve the way we formulate trade policy scenarios in impact assessments. By this the project participants aim to make contributions to the trade cost literature and advance relatively scarce findings on regulatory heterogeneity and its impact on trade policy outcomes. The work can help inform the debate around 21st century trade agreements.

This project runs from 2018-2022 and has funding of 636,238 Swiss francs.

PROSPER - Politics of Rule-making, Orchestration of Standards and Private Economic Regulations

PROSPER is a 2-year interdisciplinary project which started in September 2019 and is funded by the European Commission under the European Union Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship Programme. Its objective is to understand how and under which conditions multinational companies (MNCs) can influence rules and standards in the global trade regime.

PROSPER will mainly examine the extent to which MNCs are able to orchestrate political mobilization of their subsidiaries for coordinated lobbying and impose rules and standards upon firms along their supply chains. The theory proposed by the project suggests that firms’ globalization strategies and their degree of integration into global production networks significantly affect their ability to be active in shaping global rules and standards.

PROSPER will employ a mixed-method research design using quantitative analysis and in-depth case studies. The project will construct a comprehensive new dataset of MNCs and triangulate the results achieved through statistical analysis via comparative cases studies.

The project is run by Dr Aydin Yildirim and hosted by the WTI.

This project is scheduled to run from 2019-2021 and has a funding of 191,149 Euros.



RESPECT

The WTI participates in the EU's Horizon 2020 project RESPECT, which aims to identify options and opportunities for better realising the EU's soft power in achieving its external policy objectives. It does so through rigorous empirical analysis of the effects of trade and trade policy on non-trade policy objectives (NTPOs) and the development of conceptual frameworks to inform the design of a more coherent external policy mix.

In an international consortium of research institutes coordinated by the European University Institute, the WTI leads a stock-taking exercise of EU and Member State policies and international engagement. This includes applied trade policies, the content of EU trade agreements, as well as Member States' investment promotions activities. In the course of this, the WTI will collect additional data on NTPOs in trade agreements that will feed into the DESTA database.

In addition, the WTI team contributes to the qualitative and quantitative assessment of EU external policies. With regard to the latter, the main objective is to use the data compiled in the stock-taking exercise and empirically assess the impact of the implementation of EU and Member State external policies on trade flows as well as the realisation of the EU's NTPOs. The wide array of different measures and their interaction makes establishing cause and effect relationships particularly challenging. Thus, complementary to the quantitative analysis, case studies and policy-specific analyses will be conducted in order to expand the evidence base on the effectiveness of EU external policies. Finally, to contribute towards a better understanding of which policy strategies work under what circumstances, the WTI will aim to measure the domestic success of EU external action. This not only concerns the design but also implementation of specific aspects of EU policies and their flanking measures.

This project runs from 2018-2021 and has funding of 396,081 Euros.

BRICS Globalization and Labor Protections in Advanced and Emerging Economies

This research project, part of an SNF research professorship, investigates under what conditions BRICS trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) enhances (or undermines) labour rights, working conditions and protective labour market institutions, with a particular focus on European countries, Brazil and China.

A first collaborative research article "The 'EU Effect': Does FDI to Social Europe Affect Labor Standards in Investing Countries?" was finalised and submitted for publication. This paper is situated at the centre of the larger research project and provides a common central source tying together individual research of the project members in China, Brazil, and Europe. In it, the team proposes a theory concerning the process by which developing country FDI in high-standard European countries acts as a channel for improved labour standards and practices at home through a process of learning-based diffusion, which is termed the "EU Effect." The statistical results presented in the paper strongly support the existence of the hypothesised "EU Effect" on de facto working

conditions, though not on measures of de jure workers' rights. Additionally, utilising a comparative research design in which the EU results are presented alongside similar results from developing country FDI into the United States, the actual mechanism driving the diffusion of improved labour practices is refined which further supports the proposed learning-based diffusion. The paper was presented at the American Political Science Association. As part of a side project on the rise of China and the Western World Order, another paper "Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment and UN Voting Realignment" was finalised and presented at various conferences. Both PhD projects undertook extensive fieldwork in 2018 in China and Brazil. In China, dozens of interviews were carried out in view of gathering information related to the impact of outward Chinese foreign investment on domestic labour issues. The field research in Brazil has led to the construction of a novel nation-wide database which includes every municipality in Brazil, the domestic and international locations of Brazilian multinationals, and various indicators

measuring treatment of workers at the subnational level in order to measure the impact of internationalisation of Brazilian enterprises on the treatment of workers in Brazil. Fieldwork and data collection was supported by researchers at DIEESE in São Paulo.

The project is directed by Prof. Damian Raess and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the period 2017–2020. It has funding of 1,237,618 Swiss francs.

Framing Environmental Degradation, Human Mobility and Human Development as a Matter of Common Concern (CLI_M_CO2)

This research project, which is led by Prof. Elisa Fornalé and is part of an SNS research professorship, approaches international migration in the context of environmental degradation by conceptualising the issue as a 'common concern of humankind'. In order to contextualise its theoretical approach, the project selected the Pacific Island Countries and Territories as a case study.

During the year of 2018, the project team carried out fieldwork research in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati and New Zealand. In-depth interviews were held with key stakeholders who are active in the fields of climate change, human mobility and human rights at the international, regional and local levels. The data collected is complementing the analysis of the legal instruments regarding the environment and human mobility, as well as the conceptualisation of the doctrine of common concern of humankind. In addition, Yildiz contributed to the digital archive of environment-related migration cases (geo-archive). Aylin's contribution critically describes the relocation of the Vunidogoloa village – the first climate change-induced community relocation in Fiji.

A key output has been Fornalé's book chapter titled "Environmental Migration Governance at Regional Level." Jointly with Lavenex and Cristani, it offers insights into the case study of Latin America to point out how the regional level may become an institutional anchor for a future treaty-based structure of environmental migration governance. Together with Fornalé's book chapter "Floating Rights in Times of Environmental Changes", in which she warns

From left: Maurizio Zanardi, Ian Wootton and Joseph Francois at the ETSG 2019 conference in Bern



against major regulatory barriers of mobility schemes to capture the potential and the risks of shifting the emerging discourse on “migration as adaptation” to the level of economic dynamics.

The project team has been involved in the consultation, drafting and adoption processes of the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As a result, team members have co-published two commentaries on Objective 18 of the mentioned compact. Team members have presented initial findings at various conferences that focus on sustainable development.

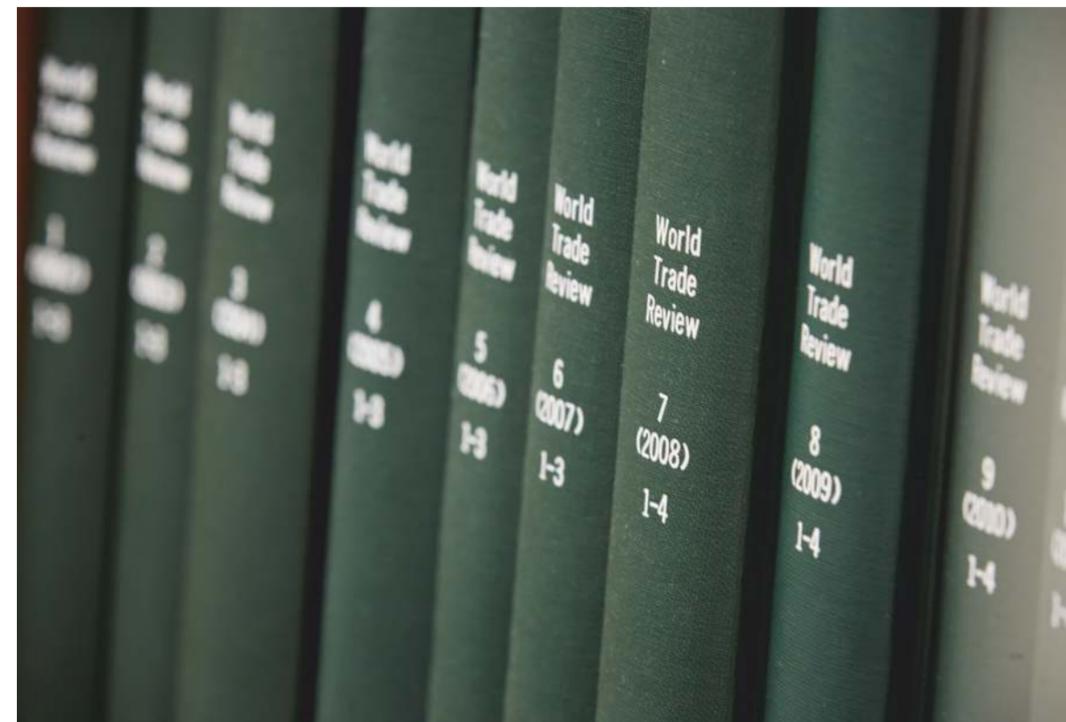
In 2019 the major outreach activity was the co-organization of a large-scale event “Connecting Environmental Changes and Human Mobility as a Way to Draw New Maps of Knowledge” at the Center Stefano Francini, that awarded us the financial support. We gathered 50 participants from local authorities, representatives from IOM, UNHCR, from academia and civil society. In November 2019, Fornalé has been invited to contribute to the Geneva Dialogues: Human Rights, Climate Change, Land and Human Mobility organized by the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights. This meeting gathered key stakeholders (e.g. Fiji Ambassador, France Ambassador, European Union Delegation) and international organisations (e.g. IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNCCD) to inform the development of international law particularly the work of the UNFCCC Task Force on Disaster Displacement.

In 2019, the CLI_M_CO2 picture “Sea Change” has been awarded a Distinction by an international jury for the category “1. Object of study”. An official award ceremony was held on 15 May during the Biel Festival of Photography, where the winning works were exhibited.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) funds the project. It runs from 2017-2022 and has funding of 1,333,000 Swiss francs.

For more information about projects at the WTI, please visit the Projects section of our website: www.wti.org/research/res



The CLI_M_CO2 team (from left): Aylin Yildiz, Prof. Elisa Fornalé and Najma Rehouma

Climate Security with Local Authorities (CLISEL)

CLISEL is a 36-month Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action, which started in May 2016 and ended in April 2019. Its aim was to explore the nexus between climate change, migration and security from the perspective of local administrations. The issues tackled were mobility crises linked to climate change, which can result in security matters within local communities. In 2019, the WTI team completed several innovative tools. In particular, Interactive Maps, the first mapping exercise specifically focused on migration, climate change and labour-related legal and political instruments from 25 countries from Europe, Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. This innovative instrument translates information fragmented in several sources making it accessible.

Geo-Archive, a digital tool prepared in collaboration with KTH that gathered a peer-reviewed selection of historical cases of environmental/climate change induced migration organized around a set of indicators. Geo-archive has contributed to CLISEL’s impact in capacity building for policy-makers by bringing a historical/humanities approach to the project with the aim of understanding the current socio-ecological crisis within a broader timeframe. Whilst public opinion generally refers to environmental risks in the future tense, the geo-archive strived to stress the historicity of risks, providing a rich collection of cases of environmental induced migration from the past. Data visualization and mapping of cases by the WTI made this output highly accessible and easy to browse for the policy-makers.

“Sea Change”, the CLI_M_CO2 picture which won a distinction by an international jury for the category “1. Object of study” at the Biel Festival of Photography



Travel app, an instrument for transmitting CLISEL’s results and the tools of the CLISEL ToolBox developed through the different WPs. This original tool aims to inform, enable and enhance the communication and understanding among policy makers, of the topics related to climate change, migration and security. The Travel App also includes the Interactive Chart on Climate Change Security that translates the “security map” elaborated in the pilot-case study in an accessible way.

The WTI ensured the constant dissemination of CLISEL tools and results at the Community of Users for Safe, Security and Resilient Societies, organized by DG Migration and Home Affairs in Brussels, attending their meetings on a regular basis and giving the final presentation on 25 March 2019.

The University of Bern (WTI) participation in the project was financed by SERI with a total budget of 841,000 Euros.

Outreach

The WTI Network

The WTI cooperates with a number of leading universities and institutes through memoranda of understanding or collaborative projects, carrying out joint research and teaching programmes. Students pre-selected by our partner universities benefit from a preferential tuition fee for the MILE and TRAIL+ programmes. In 2019, the WTI concluded new agreements with several institutions, including the Swiss Network for International Studies; the Amity University, New Delhi; the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi; Fudan University Law School, Shanghai; and the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), New Delhi. The WTI also concluded an internship agreement with Sidera Consult in Brazil.

For more information, please visit the Outreach section of our website: www.wti.org/outreach/outreach-activities and www.wti.org/outreach/outreach-activities/advisory-services



Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); the UK Department for International Trade (DIT); the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru, Lima and a training module for local authorities in Italy on migration governance. WTI faculty members taught courses and gave lectures at the American Chamber of Commerce of Peru, Lima; Amity University, New Delhi; Bocconi University, Milan; the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi; the College of Europe, Bruges; the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi; Hainan University, Haikou; the Institute of International Studies of the Universidad de Chile, Santiago; Leiden University; LUISS University, Rome; Maastricht University; the National Law School of India University, Bangalore; the National Taiwan University, Taipei (NTU); the National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu (NTHU); the Office of Trade Negotiations of Taiwan, Taipei; the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima; Swissnex India, Bangalore with the Takskashila Institution, Bangalore; the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), Arusha; the University of Delhi; the Université de Genève; the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Beijing; the University of Leuven; the Université de Neuchâtel; the Universidad San Francisco de Quito; the World Meeting of Societies for International Law, The Hague and the World Trade Organization, Geneva.

On the left: Prof. Peter Van den Bossche at the Valedictory Session of the 4th India ASEAN Expo and Summit "Co-Creating the Future" in Delhi

Below: Prof. Peter Van den Bossche speaks on WTO Appellate Body crisis at a conference at Leiden University

External Training

Besides its graduate programmes, the WTI also organises tailor-made training courses and workshops for policy-makers and government officials, as well as courses for students at other universities. These programmes range from highly individualised consultative workshops to practice-oriented courses on applied trade regulation or policy, and academic seminars on trade policy modelling and principles. In 2019, the WTI ran training courses for policy-makers and government officials on international trade for the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi; the UK Department of



Sponsorship

In 2019, the WTI sponsored two moot court competitions:

- **Gujarat International Moot Court Competition (GIMC)**

The 12th edition of the GIMC competition took place at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in India from 13–17 February 2019. 56 teams from Indian and international law schools participated. The prize winners received a full tuition scholarship to the WTI Summer Academy. As in previous years, several MILE alumni participated as panellists in the various rounds: Ms Stuti Toshi, MILE 17, was a panellist in the preliminary rounds, Ms Wakako Oshima, MILE 7 alumna from Japan, represented the WTI in the semi-final rounds, and Mr Santanu Mukherjee, MILE 1, represented the WTI in the final round.

- **John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly EMC²)**

Rodrigo Polanco Lazo, WTI PhD alumnus and Academic Coordinator at the WTI and MILE 9 alumna Maria Anna Corvaglia wrote the case for the 18th edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly known as the ELSA Moot Court Competition, EMC²). Three TRAIL+ students and one student from the University of Bern's Faculty of Law participated. The winning teams of the regional round and final oral round were awarded scholarships to the WTI Summer or Winter Academy. The most outstanding performer overall was awarded a full tuition scholarship for the TRAIL+ (LL.M.) programme at the WTI.

Faculty Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and Talking Gender, Equality, and Diversity Lecture Series

- Robert Anderson, Counsellor, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, Secretariat of the World Trade Organization
- Mira Burri, Managing Director Steering Committee Internationalisation and Senior Lecturer, University of Lucerne
- Flavia Bustreo, Former WHO Assistant Director-General for Family, Women's and Children's Health
- Didier Chambovey, Ambassador and Head of the Swiss Permanent Mission to the WTO and EFTA in Geneva
- Stephen de Boer, Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization
- Simone Dietrich, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Geneva
- Victoria Donaldson, Legal Deputy Director, Department for International Trade, UK Government
- Victor do Prado, Director, Council and TNC Division, World Trade Organization
- Lothar Ehring, Senior Expert, Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission
- Susan Emmenegger, Professor of Law and Director of the Institute of Banking Law, University of Bern
- Catherine Kessedjian, Professor Emerita, University Panthéon-Assas Paris II
- Edwini Kessie, Director, Agriculture and Commodities Division, World Trade Organization
- Nilüfer Oral, Member of the United Nations International Law Commission and Law Faculty of Istanbul Bilgi University
- Pierre Sauvé, Senior Trade Specialist in the Geneva Office of the World Bank Group
- Maarten Smeets, Head of Section, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, World Trade Organization
- Stefanie Walter, Full Professor for International Relations and Political Economy, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich
- Matthew Wilson, Chief of Staff and Chief Adviser to the Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Policy Research

The WTI conducts applied research for a range of public and private institutions in the fields of international trade and investment. WTI experts have provided opinions and advice on topics such as the impact assessment of preferential trade agreements, and 'gap analysis' of domestic and international investment commitments. A team of researchers presented the results of our project on "Switzerland's Sustainability Footprint", at a workshop organised by the Swiss National Research Programme NRP 73 on sustainable economy during the World Resources Forum 2019 in Geneva. In February and May 2019, the WTI organised two workshops at the WTO in Geneva on the crisis of the WTO dispute settlement system, and in December 2019 Peter Van den Bossche testified before the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament during a public hearing on the functioning of the WTO Appellate Body.

Dissemination

The WTI seeks to publicise WTI outputs widely, enhance WTI participation in policy discussions and debates at the local, national and international levels, and promote the general visibility of the University of Bern. In 2019, we hosted the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and the Talking Gender, Equality and Diversity Series. These public events featured eminent scholars and policy makers. The WTI also participated in the Swiss National Future Day and the WTO Public Forum. The Events section of this report provides more details on conferences, workshops and special lectures hosted and organised by the WTI in 2019.

Since 2019, the WTI co-curates the World Economic Forum's Transformation Maps <https://intelligence.weforum.org/> on the topic 'International Trade and Investment'.



Bossche held the Inaugural Address, followed by Prof. Rob Howse from New York University School of Law. Prof. Van den Bossche's speech focused on the crisis of the WTO. Several MILE alumni participated in the conference and met with Prof. Van den Bossche.

On 22 February 2019, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche gave a speech at the Valedictory Session of the 4th India ASEAN Expo and Summit "Co-Creating the Future" in Delhi. Other eminent speakers were H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN; Mr Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs of India; Mr C R Chaudhary, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution & Commerce and Industry, Government of India and distinguished Ministers from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Malaysia. Overall, the importance of collaboration and the international trading system was emphasized. The ASEAN Summit was organised by MILE 9 alumnus Rajneesh Garg, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India.

From 3 to 6 March 2019, the CLISEL project, led by SNSF Prof. Elisa Fornalé, held a conference in Ascona, Canton of Ticino on the topic of "Connecting Environmental Changes and Human Mobility as a Way to Draw New Maps of Knowledge". Young scholars participating in the conference were invited to compete for the Congressi Stefano Franscini (CSF) award, which is given for the best presentation at each CSF-subsidized conference. The award was won by Suzy Blondin of the Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel, for her presentation on "Environmental Migrations in Central Asia: A Multifaceted Approach to the Issues".

Events

In addition to Brown Bag seminars, doctoral colloquia, workshops and conferences, the WTI hosted or took part in numerous events in 2019.

On 4 February 2019 and 24 May 2019, the WTI organised at the WTO in Geneva workshops on "What Kind of Dispute Settlement for the WTO?" and "WTO Appellate Review: Reform Proposals and Alternatives" respectively. These workshops were open to the public and featured presentations by academics, practitioners and government officials.

From 21 to 23 February 2019, the University of Delhi and the Centre for WTO Studies organised an International Conference on International Trade Law in Delhi. The WTI's Director of Studies, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, was invited as a keynote speaker. The Inaugural Ceremony started with the Welcome Address by the hosts of the conference, Prof. Ved Kumari, Dean & Head of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and Prof. Abhijit Das, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies. Prof. Van Den

On the top: ETSG Annual Conference: Roberta Piermartini (WTO) giving prize for the best young economist during the first plenary session

On the right: ETSG Annual Conference: The WTI hosted the world's biggest international trade conference in September 2019



On 6 March 2019, Stephen de Boer, Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, delivered a lecture to a full house at the WTI on the topic of "Strengthening and Modernizing the WTO". His presentation was a part of the WTI's Global Economic Governance Seminar Series, which the WTI successfully launched back in 2018. The purpose of the seminars is to allow students and interested public to benefit from the insights and personal experience of the experts invited, and to engage in discussions with the experts as well as among themselves on the aspects of global economic governance addressed.

On 28 May, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche delivered his farewell speech to the Dispute Settlement Body at the WTO in Geneva. Ambassador Ujal Singh Bhatia also presented the 2018 Appellate Body Annual Report. This event was followed by a reception in the Atrium of the WTO, organised and hosted by H.E. Mr Marc Vanheukelen of the Permanent Mission of the EU.

On 7 June, at an event organized in Bangalore by Swissnex India and Takshashila Institution, Prof. Van den Bossche gave a presentation on "Uncertain Times Ahead: India and the Crisis at the World Trade Organization", followed by a conversation with Nitin Pai, Director of the Takshashila Institution. Prof. Van den Bossche was invited by the National Law School of India, Bangalore, for a lecture on the same day. On 12 June 2019, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche delivered the keynote speech at the second anniversary celebrations of the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi.

On 27 June 2019, the Closing Ceremony of the 2018-2019 Advanced Master's Programmes took place at the University of Bern's Auditorium Max. The ceremony was opened by Prof. Joseph Francois, WTI Managing Director, and was followed by a keynote address delivered by State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch (SECO). Her speech was titled, "The Future of the Rules-based Multilateral Trading System: More Reasons for Gloom than Hope?".



From 5 to 16 August, the International Bachelor Summer School for Climate Change Research, co-organised by the WTI and the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research was held in Bern. The second International Bachelor Summer School focused primarily on the Physical Climate System, Climate Economics, Governance and Knowledge Transfer. It included traditional keynote lectures, teamwork in workshops and self-study.

On 11 September the 2019-20 class of MILE and TRAIL+ students were officially welcomed at the WTI. Ambassador Ujal Singh Bhatia, India's Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization from 2004 to 2010, and former member of the WTO Appellate Body, delivered the keynote lecture at the Opening Ceremony.

Chinese students from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing visited the WTI on 7 October 2019



Impressions from the International Conference on International Trade Law held at the University of Delhi



From left: James Flett (European Commission Legal Service), Bernard Hoekman (European University Institute) and Thomas Cottier (WTI, University of Bern) at the 2019 World Trade Forum in Bern



Manfred Elsig, the WTI's Director of Research, welcomes the Indonesian Minister of Trade and his delegation at the WTI



From 12 to 14 September 2019, the WTI hosted the annual conference of the European Trade Study Group (ETSG), the world's largest international trade conference, in its 20th anniversary year. The conference featured a number of parallel sessions each day on areas including regional integration, trade and migration, multinational investment and Brexit. Two plenary sessions considered robotisation, employment and industrial growth, and trade wars and global value chains. The WTO awarded its 11th annual Essay Award for Young Economists on the opening day of the conference on 12 September. Two winners shared the prize: Jan David Bakker for an essay on "International Trade and Regional Inequality" and Federico Huneeus for a paper on "Production Network Dynamics and the Propagation of Shocks". The prize was handed over by Roberta Piermartini, Chief of Trade Costs Analysis at the WTO. On the second day of the conference the Review of World Economics (ROWE) awarded its prize to Lu Han of the University of Liverpool for a paper on "The Mutable Geography of Firms' International Trade: Evidence and Macroeconomic

Implications". The ETSG conference was set up 20 years ago to help promote young academics in Europe. The virtual proceedings are available on line: <https://www.etsg.org/ETSG2019/ETSG2019Programme.pdf>

From 20 to 21 September 2019, the first annual conference of the transnational Jean Monnet Network of Trade and Investment in Services Associates (TIISA) took place at the WTI. Jointly organised by the WTI and the University of Adelaide, the conference took as its theme 'Trade in Services by Mode of Supply'. The focus of the event was on measurement challenges of services trade flows and policy barriers. WTI Managing Director Prof. Joseph Francois presented a paper on "Bindings, Policy Risk, and Market Access in Services", which among other

Impression from the one-day "Trade Wars" workshop held at the WTI on 21 November 2019

For a full list of our events in 2019, please visit our website: www.wti.org/outreach/events



things quantifies uncertainty related to services trade policies.

The annual World Trade Forum, jointly organised by the WTI, the European University Institute (EUI) and the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) was hosted at the University of Bern from 25-26 October 2019. This yearly gathering brings together trade experts and policy makers to discuss a particular topic in international trade. The theme of the 2019 World Trade Forum was "Multilateralism at Risk".

On 21 November 2019, the WTI, in collaboration with the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research based in Taipei, hosted the one-day workshop on "Trade Wars and Their Impact on Global Trade and Small Economies", which brought together academics, lawyers, diplomats and researchers from Switzerland, Taiwan, the EU, China and Singapore.

On 16 December 2019, Prof. Peter Van den Bossche gave a keynote lecture on "The Current Challenge of WTO Reform at the 2019 WTO International Symposium", organised by the Office of Trade Negotiations of Taiwan. On 17 December 2019, he participated in a workshop on 'WTO Reform, National Security and Digital Trade', organised for officials of the Office of Trade Negotiations and presided by John Chen-Chung Deng, Minister without Portfolio, Executive Yuan, and Chief Trade Negotiator, Taiwan. On 18 and 19 December 2019, Prof. Van den Bossche gave a lecture on "The Resolution of International Trade Disputes in 2020 and Beyond" at the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), and a lecture on "Trade Wars and Their Impact on Global Trade and Small Economies" at the National Taiwan University (NTU).



Alumni

As of 2019, the WTI alumni and student body consisted of 563 current and former MILE and TRAIL+ students from 106 countries. Since completing their studies at the WTI, many alumni have launched highly successful careers, often starting with an internship at an international organisation in Geneva. Almost half of the WTI's alumni (40%) work in the private sector (e.g. PwC, Procter & Gamble, JP Morgan, BASF, IKEA), for international law firms (Baker McKenzie, White & Case, Hausfeld Lawyers, Norton Rose Fulbright, etc.) or as independent consultants. Roughly 25% of MILE alumni are employed by their respective governments (often in trade, foreign or economic ministries). Around 25% of alumni work for international organisations (e.g. WTO, ITC, ACWL, UNCTAD, FAO, UN). Some 5% are employed by non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit organisations (CUTS International, World Economic Forum) and associations, and a further 5% of graduates pursue an academic career.

As in previous years, also in 2019, WTI master students were able to pursue an internship upon the conclusion of their studies with the financial support of a number of third-party scholarship funds. Amrit Onkar Bhatia was the winner of the John H. Jackson Scholarship in 2019. This allowed him to pursue an internship at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington DC. Ridhish Rajvanshi was awarded the Luzius Wasescha Scholarship, which enabled him to do an internship at VVGB Avocats / Advocaten in Brussels as a Legal Trainee. Carla Ochoa Olliden was awarded the Geneva Internship Support Fund Scholarship, and received additional financial support from the Patricia Murillo Montesdeoca Scholarship Fund, to pursue an internship at the Permanent Mission of Peru to the International Organizations in Geneva. Julia Seleme Heinzen was awarded the Thomas Cottier Scholarship to do an internship at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the WTO. Other MILE 19 and TRAIL+ 3 graduates took up internships at the WTO and ITC in Geneva, the EU Delegation to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and with the WTI Advisors.

For more information about our Alumni, including recent interviews, please visit our website: www.wti.org/institute/alumni



The Thomas Cottier Award for the Best Thesis went to Andrea De Angelis Effrem of MILE 18 for his master's thesis on "Rules of Origin and Implications for Global Value Chains: the Swiss Watchmaking Industry". The award is presented annually to the student who submitted the best master thesis.

The WTI organised an alumni panel at the WTO Public Forum on 9 October 2019. Alumni from different year groups participated in the discussion, which was moderated by Director of Studies Prof. Peter Van den Bossche. The theme was "Tomorrow's Trading World – Thinking Ahead for the Future Generations". The panel aimed at initiating a dialogue among the young trade lawyers and economists on future challenges and opportunities and what the work of trade lawyers will look like in the future. MILE alumni participated in six other panel discussions held during the WTO Public Forum in 2019. On the occasion of the Forum, the annual alumni get-together took place at the premises of the WTI Advisors in Geneva. Around 70 WTI alumni and students as well as faculty members joined this event.

Margrit Vetter, the WTI's Director of Administration, spent the month of November visiting South East Asia and meeting up with WTI alumni in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.



Impressions from the Alumni Get-together in Geneva



Margrit Vetter with MILE 15 alumna Phuong Tong in Hanoi

Financials

Financial account for 2019 (in CHF, rounded)

INCOME	
External funds	
Programme income	1,306,000
Other income (services)	316,000
Total external funds	1,622,000
University funds	
Contributions to office rent ¹	0
Contributions to personnel expenditure	1,385,000
Contributions to operating expenses	132,000
Total university funds	1,517,000
Total Income	3,139,000

EXPENDITURE	
Personnel	
Salaries	2,650,000
Social benefits	530,000
Total personnel	3,180,000
Other Expenditure	
Office rent ¹	0
Office operating expenses	420,000
Travel	65,000
Miscellaneous	-34,000
Total other expenditure	451,000
Accruals	-492,000
Total Expenditure	3,139,000

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.

¹ Paid directly by the university administration.

Alumni Panel at WTO Public Forum 2019: From left: Wakako Oshima (MILE 7), Fernando Pierola (MILE 1), Peter Van den Bossche, Harsh Hiroo Gursahani (MILE 11) and Kholofelo Kugler (MILE 14) at the WTO Public Forum 2019 in Geneva

