

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

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Day 1 – Friday, September 18

8:30-09:00 **Registration at the World Trade Institute**
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

9:15-9:20 **Opening remarks**
Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (*in-person only*)

9:20-10:50 **Plenary I: Europe, Innovation vs. Protectionism**
Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (*in-person only*)

<u>Chair</u>	Iana Dreyer, Borderlex
<u>Panelists</u>	Marion Jansen, OECD Sabine Weyand, EU Commission and EUI Peter Flückiger, Swiss Textiles Pascal Kerneis, European Services Forum Arno Hold, Novartis

11:00-11:20 **Coffee Break, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern**

11:20-12:50 **Parallel 1: LLMs and Economic Agreements**
Organized by the World Trade Institute and Uni Salzburg
Room: 205, third floor, WTI (*in-person only*)

<u>Chair</u>	Manfred Elsig, WTI, University of Bern
<u>Panelists</u>	Andreas Dür, University of Salzburg <i>Measuring the Depth of Trade Agreements with Large Language Models</i> Kirthana Ganeson, University of Bern <i>Trade and Development: Participation and Framing in WTO 'Development' Discourse</i> Julieta Contreras, University of Bern Leonardo Rodrigues, University of Bern <i>Textual Leverage: US Power in Digital Services Trade</i>
<u>Discussants</u>	Inu Manak, Peterson Institute for International Economics Gabriele Spilker, University of Konstanz

11:20-12:50 **Parallel 2: Trade and Sustainability**
Organized by Wyss Academy and the World Trade Institute
Room : Anna Nussbaum, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

<u>Chair</u>	Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, UNCTAD
<u>Panelists</u>	Fernando Fernández, Wyss Academy <i>From Stigma to Supply Chain: Social Recognition and the Formalization of Artisanal Gold</i> Rodrigo Fagundes Cezar, FGV <i>International Organizations and Green Trade Measures amid Global Fracture</i> Charline Depoorter, University of Basel <i>Voluntary sustainability standards and trading-up in tropical agrifood commodities</i> Julia Gubler, WTI, University of Bern Utkarsh Uprety, WTI, University of Bern Noah Wheatley, WTI, University of Bern <i>Trade Instruments for Climate Action: Insights from an Expert Survey</i>

Discussant Werner Zdouc, WTI Fellow, University of Bern

11:20-12:50 **Parallel 3: New research outlooks on services and digital policies**
Organized by OECD
Room: Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Marion Jansen, OECD
Panelists Roberto Echandi, WTI Fellow, University of Bern
Water in multilateral and preferential commitments on services
Joscelyn Magdeleine, World Trade Organization
Javier Lopez Gonzalez, OECD
Understanding the evolving regulatory environment for digital trade
Robert Basedow, London School of Economics
Bytes and Ballots: How Democracy and Geopolitics Shape Digital Trade Policy
Discussants Jose Blandon, Global Affairs Canada

12:50-14:00 **Lunch at the cafeteria** at Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

14:15-15:45 **Plenary II: Global Trade Disorder: Trends and Opportunities**
Room: F021, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 32, 3012 Bern (in-person only)

Chair Pierre Sauvé, WTI Fellow, University of Bern
Panelists Helene Budliger Artieda, 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

15:45-16:10 **Coffee Reception, Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern**

16:10-17:40 **Parallel 4: Beyond Market Access: Making Trade Preferences Work in a Fragmenting World**
Organized by German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair Clara Brandi, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
Panelists Dominique Njinkeu, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
Trade for Development: Towards a Research, Evidence and Innovation Agenda, with Implications for Africa and Canada
Clara Weinhardt, Maastricht University
Trade Preferences and Asymmetric Interdependence: Challenges for Developing Countries
Tim Vogel, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

From Preferences to Protectionism: Simulating the Effects of Trump-Era Tariffs and a AGOA expiry on Sub-Saharan African Trade

Discussants Alfred Kombudo, Government of Kenya
Quynh Nguyen, Wyss Academy

16:10-17:40

Parallel 5: Technical regulations and trade

Organized by the World Trade Institute, World Bank Group, World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Room: Seminar room 205, upstairs, WTI (in-person only)

Chair

Octavio Fernández-Amador, WTI, University of Bern
From Stigma to Supply Chain: Social Recognition and the Formalization of Artisanal Gold

Panelists

Maryla Maliszewska, World Bank Group
Achim Vogt, World Bank Group
DAWN: Transforming WTO Notifications into a Database of Technical Measures
Erik Wijkstrom, World Trade Organization
Standards and Trade – a view from the TBT Committee
Ralf Peters, UNCTAD
Melting the Iceberg: Transparency and Regulatory Cooperation
Irene Iodice, City St George's, University of London
Transparency as Trade Policy: The Value of Advance Notifications in Technical Regulations

Discussants

Melvin Spreij, World Trade Organization
Camille Reverdy, Geneva Graduate Institute

16:10-17:40

Parallel 6: Trade and Trade Wars

Organized by the University of Bern and the University of St. Gallen
Room: Silva Casa, WTI
[Online participation possible](#)

Chair

Aydin Yildirim, University of St Gallen

Panelists

Julian Hinz, Kiel Institute
Kieran Walsh, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)
Tariffs and Firm Expectations
Joseph Francois, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
US Trade Policy Recent Developments

Discussants

Maximilian von Ehrlich, University of Bern
Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute

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: Seminar room 205, upstairs, WTI (in-person only)

Chair

Wolfgang Alschner, University of Ottawa

Panelist

Craig VanGrasstek, Trade Historian

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 <i>Organized by the European University Institute</i> <i>Room: Silva Casa, WTI</i> Online participation possible <u>Chair</u> <u>Panelists</u> Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute Cosimo Beverelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Rohit Ticku, European University Institute <i>Trade Exposure and Patterns of Industrial Policy Adoption</i> Fabio Artuso, Asian Development Bank Julian Latimer Clarke, Asian Development Bank <i>Industrial Policy in Practice: Methodological Lessons from ADB Support to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan</i> Adam Jakubik, International Monetary Fund <i>Industrial Policy in an Era of Global Imbalances</i> <u>Discussant:</u> Gabrielle Marceau, University of Bern Matteo Fiorini, OECD
9.30-11.00	Parallel 9: Trade Concepts, trade and financial data <i>Organized by the University of Bern and the University of Groningen</i> <i>Room: Anna Nussbaum, WTI</i> Online participation possible <u>Chair</u> <u>Panelists</u> Isabelle Van Damme, WTI, University of Bern Tristan Kohl, University of Groningen <i>The Stock Market Effects of the 2022 Russia Sanctions: Evidence from the US and the EU</i> Lukas Linsi, University of Groningen <i>What is economic dependence in a geoeconomic age? Reassessing Sino-German entanglements in a global perspective</i> Nicolas Lamp, Queen's University Canada <i>The Debate about China's "Overcapacity" as a Struggle over the International Division of Labour: Which Future for International Economic Law?</i> <u>Discussants:</u> Maarten Smeets, University of Bern Longyue Zhao, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Plenary III: The New Economic Statecraft <i>Room: Silva Casa, WTI</i> Online participation possible <u>Chair</u> <u>Speakers</u> Michael Hahn, WTI Fellow, University of Bern Markus Schlagenhof, European Free Trade Association Stephanie Rickard, London School of Economics Sufian Jusoh, the National University of Malaysia Kathleen Claussens, Georgetown University (online) Alfred Kombudo, Government of Kenya
13:00-13:05	Closing remarks, <i>Room: Silva Casa, WTI</i>

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