

Curriculum Vitae – Manfred Elsig

Professional Activities

As of 8/2025	Managing Director of the WTI
As of 8/2019	Member of the Senate of the University of Bern
As of 8/2018	Full Professor of International Relations World Trade Institute, University of Bern, www.wti.org
3/2013 to 7/2018	Associate Professor of International Relations, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
9/2013 to 9/2017	Director NCCR Trade Regulation (Swiss National Science Association),
7/2011 to 2/2013	Tenure-track Assistant Professor of International Relations World Trade Institute, University of Bern
9/2009 to 6/2011	Assistant Professor in International Relations World Trade Institute, University of Bern
9/2005 to 8/2009	Postdoc Fellow Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and World Trade Institute, Bern / Lecturer at the University of Bern
9/2008 to 2/2010	Visiting Professor Institute of Political Science, University of Geneva
9/2006 to 8/2010	Visiting Lecturer Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
9/2004 to 8/2005	Teaching and Research Fellow London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
3/2000 to 7/2005	Lecturer / Visiting Lecturer Political Science Institute, University of Zurich
4/2002 to 4/2004	Personal Advisor to the Minister of Economy Canton Zurich, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Zurich
7/2001 to 3/2002	Political Adviser Public Policy Group, UBS Financial Services Group, Zurich
3/1999 to 12/2001	Ph.D. Candidate and Research Assistant Political Science Institute, Department for International Relations University of Zurich
7/1997 to 2/1999	Adviser/Trade Diplomat Section Technical Barriers to Trade Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs (BAWI), Bern
11/1994 to 8/1996	Research Assistant, Political Science Institute, University of Bern

Education

1999-2002	Dr. phil Institute of Political Science, International Relations Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland
1994-1997	Lic.rer.soc. Major in political science (international relations); minor in economics and international trade law. University of Bern, Switzerland
1993-1994	Erasmus student Courses in European law and international finance University of Bordeaux, France
1991-1993	Introductory courses in economics and political science University of Bern, Switzerland
1991	Matura Typus E Brig College, Valais, Switzerland
1988-1989	Exchange student Onalaska High School, Wisconsin, USA

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

37. Trade agreements and the design of democracy-related provisions (TRADEM): The creation of a new data," *Review of International Organizations*, forthcoming - 2026
36. "Dealing with Clashes of International Law: A Micro-Level Study of Climate and Trade", *International Studies Quarterly* 68(4) (co-authored with Gabriele Spilker) - 2024
35. "Why Is There No Investor-State Dispute settlement in RCEP? Bargaining and Contestation in the Investment Regime," *Business and Politics*. Published online 2024:1-28. doi:10.1017/bap.2024.8 (co-authored with Andrew Lugg, Kirithana Ganeson, Manfred Elsig, Julien Chaisse and Sufian Jusoh)- 2024.
34. "Initiator Conditions and the Diffusion of Digital Trade-Related Provisions in PTAs", *International Interactions* 48(2):292-308 (co-authored with Sebastian Klotz) – 2022.
33. "Main Act or Side Show? Model Agreements by International Institutions and Their Reuse in Investment Treaty Texts", *Journal of International Economic Law* 25(4):592-610 (co-authored with Wolfgang Alschner and Simon Wüthrich) – 2022.

32. “Drafting Investment Law: Patterns of Influence in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)”, *Journal of International Economic Law* 25(1):110-128 (co-authored with Julien Chaisse, Sufian Jusoh and Andrew Lugg) – 2022.
31. “Challenged in Geneva: WTO Litigation Experience and the Design of Preferential Trade Agreements”, *Business and Politics* 23(3):344-363 (co-authored with Simon Wüthrich) – 2022.
30. “Digital Trade Rules in Preferential Trade Agreements: Is There a WTO Impact?”, *Global Policy* 12:25-36 (co-authored with Sebastian Klotz) – 2021
29. “Introducing the Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (Edit): The Genesis of a New Database and Its Use”, *World Trade Review* 20(1):73-94 (co-authored with Wolfgang Alschner and Rodrigo Polanco) – 2020
28. “Are the Contents of International Treaties Copied and Pasted? Evidence from Preferential Trade Agreements”, *International Studies Quarterly* 63(3):603-13 (co-authored with Todd Allee) – 2019
27. “Intra-Industry Trade, Global Value Chains, and Preferential Tariff Liberalization”, *International Studies Quarterly* 62(2), 329-340 (co-authored with Leonardo Baccini and Andreas Dür) – 2018.
26. “Veto Players and the Contents of Preferential Trade Agreements”, *Review of International Political Economy* 24(3):538-67 (co-authored with Todd Allee) – 2017.
25. “Is the European Union Trade Deal with Canada New or Recycled? A Text-as-data Approach”, *Global Policy* 8(2):246-52 (co-authored with Todd Allee and Andrew Lugg) – 2017.
24. “The Ties between the World Trade Organization and Preferential Trade Agreements: A Textual Analysis”, *Journal of International Economic Law* 20(2):333-63 (co-authored with Todd Allee and Andrew Lugg) – 2017.
23. “The Politics of Treaty Signature: The Role of Diplomats and Ties that Bind”, *International Negotiation* 22(3):521-43 (co-authored with Karolina Milewicz) – 2017.
22. “Legalization in Context: The Design of the WTO’s Dispute Settlement System”, *British Journal of International Relations and Politics* 19(2):304-19 – 2017.
21. “Why Do Some International Institutions Contain Strong Dispute Settlement Provisions: New Evidence from Preferential Trade Agreements?”, *The Review of International Organizations* 11(1):89-120 (co-authored with Todd Allee) – 2016.
20. “The Extensive (but Fragile) Authority of the WTO Appellate Body”, *Law and Contemporary Issues* 79(1):237-73 (co-authored with Greg Shaffer and Sergio Puig) – 2016.
19. “Support for International Trade Law: The US and the EU Compared”, *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 13(4):966-86 (co-authored with Jappe Eckhardt) – 2015.

18. “The Creation of the Multilateral Trade Court: Design and Experiential Learning”, *World Trade Review* 14(S1):S13-32 (co-authored with Jappe Eckhardt) – 2015.
17. “The Politics of Trade Agreement Design: Revisiting the Depth-Flexibility Nexus”, *International Studies Quarterly* 59(4):765-75 (co-authored with Leonardo Baccini and Andreas Dür) – 2015.
16. “The Design of International Trade Agreements: Introducing a New Dataset”, *The Review of International Organizations* 9(3):353-75 (co-authored with Andreas Dür and Leonardo Baccini) – 2014.
15. “The Hidden World of Multilateralism? Treaty Commitments of Newly Democratized States in Europe”, *International Studies Quarterly* 58(2):322-35 (co-authored with Karolina Milewicz) – 2014.
14. “Agents, Trustees, and International Courts: Nomination and Appointment of Judicial Candidates in the WTO Appellate Body”, *European Journal of International Relations*, 20(2): 391-415 (co-authored with Mark Pollack) – 2014.
13. “The EU as an Effective Trade Power? Strategic Choice of Judicial Candidates in the Context of the World Trade Organization”, *International Relations* 27(3):325-40 – 2013.
12. “The Democratizing Effects of Multilateral Organizations: A Cautionary Note on the WTO”, *World Trade Review* 12(3):487-507 – 2013.
11. “European Union Meets South Korea: Bureaucratic Interests, Exporter Discrimination and the Negotiations of Trade Agreements”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 50(3):492-507 (co-authored with Cédric Dupont) – 2012.
10. “Low-Income Developing Countries and WTO Litigation: Why Wake Up the Sleeping Dog?”, *Review of International Political Economy* 19(2):292-316 (co-authored with Philipp Stucki) – 2012.
9. “Who Is in Love with Multilateralism? Treaty Commitment in the Post-Cold War Era”, *European Union Politics* 12(4):529-50 (co-authored with Karolina Milewicz and Nikolas Stürchler) – 2011.
8. “Principal-Agent Theory and the World Trade Organization: Complex Agency and ‘Missing Delegation’”, *European Journal of International Relations* 17(3):495-517 – 2011.
7. “Principals, Agents, and the EU’s Foreign Economic Policies”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 18(3):323-38 (co-authored with Andreas Dür) – 2011.
6. “The World Trade Organization at Work: Performance in a Member-Driven Milieu”, *The Review of International Organizations* 5(3):345-63 – 2010.
5. “European Union Trade Policy after Enlargement: Larger Crowds, Shifting Priorities and Informal Decision-Making”, *Journal of European Public Policy* 17(6):781-98 – 2010.

4. “Business and Public–Private Regulation Arrangements: Beyond Corporate Social Responsibility?”, *Global Society* 22(3):387-404 (co-authored with Frank Amalric) – 2008.
3. “The EU’s Choice of Regulatory Venues for Trade Negotiations: A Tale of Agency Power?”, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 45(4):927-48 – 2007.
2. “The World Trade Organization’s Legitimacy Crisis: What Does The Beast Look Like?”, *Journal of World Trade* 41(1):75-98 – 2007.
1. “Swiss Air Traffic Policy: Noise Between Berne and Berlin” *Swiss Political Science Review* 12(3):35-62 – 2006.

Additional articles

- “WTO dispute settlement and the study of compliance”, *Journal of International Trade Law and Policy* 14(3): 112-115 – 2015.
- “The Design of Preferential Trade Agreements: A New Dataset in the Making”, *World Trade Organization Staff Working Paper* (ERSD-2011-10) (co-authored with Leonardo Baccini, Andreas Dür and Karolina Milewicz) – 2011.
- “Alternativen zu einer neuen WTO-Runde”, *Internationale Politik* 6:47-52 (co-authored with Dieter Ruloff) – 2000.
- “Post-Seattle Blues”, *Transatlantic Edition - Internationale Politik* 3:77-82 (co-authored with Dieter Ruloff) – 2000.

Books and monographs

The EU’s Common Commercial Policy. Institutions, Interests and Ideas. Aldershot: Ashgate Publisher (2002).

The Common Commercial Policy from Maastricht to Nice. Institutional Debates and the Union’s Role in World Trade, Dissertationsschrift, Universität Zürich (2001).

Analyse der Bestimmungsfaktoren für den Vermittlungsausgang in zwischenstaatlichen Konflikten unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der amerikanischen Vermittlungstätigkeiten von 1945-1992, Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Bern (1997).

Edited volumes

Globalization in Latin America: The Law, Politics and Economics of Preferential Trade Agreements. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2025), co-edited with Andrew Lugg and Rodrigo Polanco.

The Concept Design of a 21st Century Preferential Trade Agreement. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2024), co-edited with Kathleen Claussen and Rodrigo Polanco.

The Shifting Landscape of Global Trade Governance. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2019), co-edited with Michael Hahn and Gabriele Spilker.

Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose? Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2017), co-edited with Bernard Hoekman and Joost Pauwelyn.

Trade Cooperation: The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2015), co-edited with Andreas Dür.

Governing the World Trade Organization: Past, Present and Beyond Doha. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2011), co-edited with Thomas Cottier.

The EU's Foreign Economic Policies: A Principal-Agent Perspective. London: Routledge (2011), co-edited with Andreas Dür.

Internationale Politik und Handlungsspielräume der Schweiz aus dem Blickwinkel der Entwicklungspolitik. Eine politikwissenschaftliche Analyse. Bern: DEZA (2000), co-edited with Dieter Ruloff and Sandra Lavenex.

Book chapters

22. “(Geo-)Politics of Economic Integration”, in J. Chaisse and C. Herrmann (eds). *The International Law of Economic Integration.* Oxford: Oxford University Press (2025)

21. “Mapping the PTA Universe in Latin America”, in M. Elsig, A. Lugg and R. Polanco (eds). *Globalization in Latin America: The Law, Politics and Economics of Preferential Trade Agreements.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2025).

20. “The Regulation of International Trade and (Democratic) Legitimacy”, in D. Bethlehem, D. McRae, R. Neufeld and I. Van Damme (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of International Trade Law* (2e). Oxford: Oxford University Press (2022).

19. “Data Flow-Related Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements: Trends and Patterns of Diffusion” in M. Burri (eds). *Big Data and Global Trade Law.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2021), co-authored with Sebastian Klotz.

18. “Introduction: Current Challenges and Future Scenarios”, in M. Elsig, M. Hahn and G. Spilker (eds). *The Shifting Landscape of Global Trade Governance.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2019), co-authored with Michael Hahn and Gabriele Spilker.

17. “Introduction”, in M. Elsig, B. Hoekman and J. Pauwelyn (eds). *Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2017), co-authored with Bernard Hoekman and Joost Pauwelyn.

16. “Thinking about Performance in the Context of the World Trade Organization: An Interdisciplinary Perspective”, in M. Elsig, B. Hoekman and J. Pauwelyn (eds). *The Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2017), co-authored with Bernard Hoekman and Joost Pauwelyn.
15. “The Presence of the WTO within PTAs”, in M. Elsig, B. Hoekman and J. Pauwelyn (eds). *Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2017), co-authored with Todd Allee.
14. “Performance and International Organizations’ Borders: The Case of the World Trade Organization”, in M. Elsig, B. Hoekman and J. Pauwelyn (eds). *Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2017), co-authored with Cédric Dupont.
13. “The Law and Politics of WTO Dispute Settlement” in W. Sandholtz and C. Whytock (eds.). *Research Handbook on the Politics of International Law*, Edgar Elgar Publishing (2017), co-authored with Gregory Shaffer and Sergio Puig.
12. “Introduction: The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements”, in A. Dür and M. Elsig (eds). *Trade Cooperation: The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2015), co-authored with Andreas Dür.
11. “Dispute Settlement Provisions in PTAs: New Data and New Concepts”, in A. Dür and M. Elsig (eds). *Trade Cooperation: The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2015), co-authored with Todd Allee.
10. “Limits to Orchestration: The Case of the World Trade Organization”, in K. Abbott, D. Snidal, P. Genschel and B. Zangl (eds). *International Organizations as Orchestrators*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2014).
9. “Informal International Law-Making – A Conceptual View from International Relations”, in J. Pauwelyn, R. Wessel and J. Wouters (eds), *Informal International Lawmaking*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2013), co-authored with Liliana Andonova.
8. “The Politics of Treaty Interpretation: Variations and Explanations Across International Tribunals”, in J. Dunoff and M. Pollack (eds), *International Law and International Relations: Taking Stock*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2013), co-authored with Joost Pauwelyn.
7. “The Dispute Settlement Mechanism: Analysis and Problems”, in M. Daunton, A. Narlikar, and R. M. Stern (eds), *Oxford Handbook on the World Trade Organization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2012), co-authored with Thomas Bernauer and Joost Pauwelyn.
6. “Persistent Deadlock at Doha”, in M. Daunton, A. Narlikar, and R. M. Stern (eds), *Oxford Handbook on the World Trade Organization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2012), co-authored with Cédric Dupont.
5. “Introduction”, in T. Cottier and M. Elsig (eds), *Governing the World Trade Organization: Past, Present and Beyond Doha*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2011), co-authored with Thomas Cottier.

4. “Reforming the WTO: the Decision-Making Triangle Revisited”, in T. Cottier and M. Elsig (eds), *Governing the World Trade Organization: Past, Present and Beyond Doha*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2011), co-authored with Thomas Cottier.
3. “Reflections on Modes of Decision-Making in the World Trade Organization”, In T. Cottier and P. Delimatsis (eds), *The Prospects of International Trade Regulation - From Fragmentation to Coherence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2010), co-authored with Yves Bonzon, Marina Foltea, Thomas Messerli and Andreas Ziegler.
2. “WTO Decision-Making: Can We Get a Little Help From the Secretariat and the Critical Mass?”, in D. Steger (ed), *Redesigning the World Trade Organization for the Twenty-first Century*. Wilfred Laurier University Press, CIGI and IDRC (2010).
1. “The EU in the Doha Negotiations: A Conflicted Sponsor?”, in A. Narlikar and B. Vickers (eds), *Leadership and Change in the Doha Negotiations*. Brill/Martinus Nijhoff (2009).

Book reviews

Kent Jones, *Reconstructing the World Trade Organization for the 21st Century: An Institutional Approach*. Oxford University Press, 2015. *Perspectives on Politics* 15(1) (2017).

Christina Davis, *Why Adjudicate? Enforcing Trade Rules in the WTO*. Princeton University Press, 2012. *Review of International Organizations* 7(4) (2012).

Daniel Drezner, *All Politics is Global: Explaining International Regulatory Regimes*. Princeton University Press, 2007. *World Trade Review* 8(2) (2009).

Gerald Schneider and Mark Aspinwall (eds.), *The Rules of Integration: Institutional Approaches to the Study of Europe*. Manchester University Press, 2001. *Swiss Political Science Review* 7(3) (2001).

Special data projects

Democracy provisions in Trade Agreements, SNF project

Design of Trade Agreements DESTA: ongoing

Financed originally by the NCCR Trade Regulation, this joint project with Andreas Dür (University of Salzburg), Leonardo Baccini (Mc Gill University) and Karolina Milewicz (Oxford University) aims to systematically collect data on the design of trade agreements. It is to our knowledge the most ambitious project to gather data on preferential trade agreements (see www.designoftradeagreements.org)

Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT): ongoing

This project sets up a new database of international investment agreements (IIAs) in one single format and standardized by language for answering a set of research questions related to

understanding the design, evolution and effects of IIA. It has been funded by the Swiss Network of International Studies (www.snis.ch) and supported by the World Bank in cooperation with Wolfgang Alschner (University of Ottawa) and Rodrigo Polanco (WTI) (<https://edit.wti.org/document/investment-treaty/search>)

Regulating Big Data in Trade Agreements, 2017-2020

This project, jointly co-directed with Dr Mira Burri (University of Lucerne) focuses on big data-related provisions in preferential and multilateral trade agreements. Financed by the Swiss Science Foundation, we map and study the design and evolution of these clauses.

Teaching

I have taught courses on international relations, global political economy, trade policy, European integration and research design since 1999 at following academic institutions: University of Bern, University of Geneva, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), University of Zurich and London School of Economics and Political Science. Short courses were taught at the University of Lausanne (LLM International and European Economic Law), at the University of Zurich (Masters of Advanced Studies in International Organizations), University of Bern (Kompetenzzentrum für Public Management), Thunderbird (Executive MBA), World Economic Forum Young Leadership Programm, the Free Trade University Hanoi, Universidad de Chile, Santiago & The Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima.

Editor

Since 2020, I am part of the Editors-in-Chief team of the World Trade Review (Cambridge University Press).

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, European Journal of International Relations, European Journal of Political Research, World Politics, European Union Politics, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Political Philosophy, Review of International Political Economy, Review of International Organizations, Review of International Studies, Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica, Journal of International Relations and Development, Swiss Political Science Review; World Trade Review.

Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA), European Political Science Association (EPSA), European Union Studies Association (EUSA), International Political Economy Society (IPES), International Studies Association (ISA), Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA).

Awards

SNIS International Geneva Award for best paper in international studies relevant to International Organizations (5000 CHF), 2010

International Political Economy Society (IPES) Award for best new database in political economy, together with Andreas Dür and Leonardo Baccini, 2017.

PhD supervision

Simon Wüthrich, University of Bern, Jenny Surbeck, University of Bern, Sebastian Klotz, University of Bern, Marietta Angeli, University of Bern/LSE, Kirithana Ganeson, University of Bern, Marine Roux, University of Bern, Julia Gubler, University of Bern, Noah Wheatley, University of Bern, Utkarsh Upraty, University of Bern, Julieta Contreras, University of Bern, Leonardo Rodrigues, University of Bern, Robin van Boxtel, University of Bern

PhD co-supervision

Wolfgang Giernalczyk, University of Maastricht, Patrick Wagner, University of Bern, Wanlin Ren, University of Bern, Hsin-Yi Wu, University of Bern, Akhil Raina, University of Leuven

PhD Committee Member

Ali Arbia, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (2011), Thomas Messerli, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (2011), Mor Sobol, University of Edinburgh (2014), Quynh Nguyen, Swiss Federal Technical School, Zurich (2015), David Pressberger, Swiss Feder Technical School, Zurich (2023)

Conference or workshop convener

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions 2009, Lisbon, World Trade Forum 2009, Bern, ECPR Joint Sessions 2012, Antwerp, World Trade Forum 2013, Bern, World Trade Forum 2015, Bern, The Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO) Annual Meeting 2017, Bern, World Trade Forum 2017, Grindelwald, World Trade Forum 2018, Florence, World Trade Forum 2019, 2022, 2024, 2026 Bern

Additional activities

E-15 Initiative, Convener of Export Group on the “Functioning of the WTO”, 2014-2016

Frequent commentator in blogs, newspapers (e.g. Washington Post, Neue Zürcher Zeitung), radio & TV (BBC, Deutsche Welle, SRF, Al Jazeera).