Module I

Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection: Foundations and Challenges

Root number: 446638

ECTS: 3

Lecturers: Thomas Cottier, Jayashree Watal, Matthias Käch, Kamran Houshang Pour, Erik Thevenod-Mottet, Martin Girsberger, Julie Poupinet and Kathrin Rüegsegger.

Location: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following the guidelines established by the University of Bern, all courses of the 2020 WTI Summer Academy will only be held online. This course will have live sessions on Zoom.


Audience:
- Government officials; Embassy staff; people working for international organisations and NGOs, industry and in legal practice
- Master of Advanced Studies of International Law and Economics (MILE) Students
- Joint LL.M. / Diploma of Advanced Studies Trade and Investment Law (TRAIL+) Students - World Trade Institute / Faculty of Law, Unibe
- Certificate of Advanced Studies / Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (CAS ILE & DAS ILE) Students - World Trade Institute, Unibe
- Students from different universities across Switzerland

Course Description:
Intellectual property rights play an increasing role in international trade and the process of globalization and regionalization. Global value chains and division of labour strongly depends upon intellectual property protection which in turn also influences trade flows. The module expounds the fundamental principles of IP protection in the multilateral trading system of the WTO and preferential trade agreements. It offers an introduction to different forms of rights, scope of rights, and students are exposed to leading WTO...
case law. The module particularly focuses in a case study on the implications of patents on public health and pharmaceuticals in the developing world. The module offers an introduction into trademarks and geographical indications and explains the different modes of registration of intellectual property rights and research tools for patent and trademark landscaping. The introduction is taught by academics, former trade negotiators and experienced practitioners.

**Exams and Grades:**
24 hours take home assignment to be released on Thursday after class.

**Schedule**

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Biography of the Lecturers:

**Thomas Cottier**

Prof. em. Thomas Cottier, former Managing Director of the World Trade Institute, is Professor Emeritus of European and International Economic Law at the University of Bern. He published widely in the field of international economic law, with a particular focus on constitutional theory and intellectual property. He directed the national research programme on trade law and policy (NCCR International Trade Regulation: From Fragmentation to Coherence) located at the WTI from 2006-2014. He is an associate editor of several journals. He was a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, the Paris I Sorbonne, University of Barcelona, and regularly teaches at the Europa Institut Saarbrücken, Germany, at Wuhan University, China, at the University of Torino and more recently at the University of Ottawa, Canada. He was a member of the Swiss National Research Council from 1997-2004 and served on the board of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) Rome during the same period. He served the Baker & McKenzie law firm as Of Counsel from 1998 to 2005. He held several positions in the Swiss External Economic Affairs Department and was the Deputy-Director General of the Swiss Intellectual Property Office. Prof. Cottier has a long-standing involvement in GATT / WTO activities. He served on the Swiss negotiating team of the Uruguay Round from 1986 to 1993, first as Chief negotiator on dispute settlement and subsidies for Switzerland and subsequently as Chief negotiator on TRIPs. He has served as a member or chair of several GATT and WTO panels and served on a high level panel reviewing the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization.

**Jayashree Watal**

Ms. Watal is Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law and Honorary Professor at the National Law University, Delhi. She was Counsellor in the Intellectual Property Division of the World Trade Organization from February 2001 to July 2019, where she has dealt with negotiations on TRIPS and public health. She has more than twenty two years of experience in government in India, of which ten years was devoted to policy, diplomacy, research and administration on intellectual property rights, including representing India in the TRIPS negotiations. She has researched and published on issues related to intellectual property rights, including a book Intellectual Property Rights in the WTO and Developing Countries (Oxford University Press, India and Kluwer Law International, 2001). She was a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Development at Harvard University (2000) and at the Institute for International Economics, Washington DC (Oct. 1998-August 2000) and at the George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C. (1997- 2000). She worked in the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce as Director, Trade Policy Division, New Delhi (1995-1998). She has a post-master’s degree in trade law (DESS) from the University of Paris-V; M.A. in Economics from Gokhale Institute for Politics and Economics, Pune, India; and a B.A. from Fergusson College, Pune, India.
Matthias Käch
Matthias Käch served as Head of Training at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IGE) for seven years. He started working for the Trade Mark Division of the IGE twenty-two years ago as trade mark examiner. After receiving a DAS in Intellectual Property Rights at the University of Bern in 2004 he worked as a member of the trade mark opposition section as well. In 2009 he started lecturing as an IP-Trainer regarding all fields of intellectual property with the main emphasis on trade mark law. In 2010 he received a MAS in Brand- and Marketing Management at the University of Applied Science in Luzern. Since 2011 he was Head of Training and offers today lecture as Senior IP-Trainer.

Kamran Houshang Pour
Dr. Kamran Houshang Pour is patent expert and IP trainer at Swiss Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) in Bern. After obtaining a PhD in physics at the EPF Lausanne he worked as product manager at Nortel Networks in Zurich, where he conducted yield improvement projects for the existing products, qualified new products and introduced them into the market. He later cofounded a consulting entity providing technical supports especially for young start-ups by the quality management as well as by the technical questions. After a master in statistics at the Université de Neuchâtel he returned as Post Doc to EPFL (TRANS-P-OR) conducting an externally financed project on modelling customer behaviour. Since 2008, he is working at IPI, where, as patent expert, he conducts different type of patent searches, such as validity or freedom-to-operate searches, and examines patent applications in his field of knowledge. Since 2011, and as IP trainer, he gives lectures on diverse intellectual property subjects at the universities and in the companies. In 2019 he received the Master degree in Intellectual Property Law and Management (LLM) from the University of Strasbourg.

Erik Thévenod-Mottet
Erik Thévenod-Mottet is advisor at the Swiss Institute of Intellectual Property for national and international affairs on geographical indications (GIs) and indications of source, since 2009. He previously worked as a researcher within European scientific projects, as well as in a certification body or for interprofessional organisations, always in relation to GIs.

Martin Girsberger
Martin Girsberger is Head of the unit ‘Sustainable Development & International Cooperation’ at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI), where he has been working since 1998. He is responsible for the intellectual property-related aspects of sustainable development, including biodiversity, environment, and food and agriculture. He has been a member of the Swiss delegations to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization; the TRIPS Council; and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Additionally, he is responsible for the international cooperation activities of the IPI, which aim at improving the economic situation in countries through reforms in the field of intellectual property. Martin Girsberger holds an Attorney at Law, a Dr. iur. (University of Berne), and an LL.M.-degree (Duke Law School). He is the author of several publications covering the issues of traditional knowledge, Farmers’ Rights, access and benefit sharing, and intellectual property.
Julie Poupinet
Julie Poupinet is head of an examination team and of the trademark search team at the Swiss Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) and responsible for the implementation of the Madrid System at IPI as a designated country. In this capacity she represents Switzerland at the Working Group on the legal development of the Madrid System at WIPO. Previously she occupied several positions in the trademark division giving her a broad overview of the practices at IPI.

Kathrin Rüegsegger
Kathrin works as an advisor on innovation, intellectual property and public health at IPI. She holds a master’s degree in International and European Law from the University of Bern and a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva. She grew up bilingually in Zurich with German and English and is fluent in Spanish and French is well. Kathrin is very passionate about the field of international negotiations. Together with Prof. Felix Addor, she is responsible for organizing the Model United Nations’s Seminar at the University of Bern as well as teaching the students basic skills in negotiations.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the rationale and motivation, sources, basic underlying principles, rights and obligations of different forms of the international intellectual property protection, with particular focus on the TRIPs Agreement and its operation within the WTO and PTAs.
- To appreciate the key economic trade-offs associated with the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.
- To understand the interpretation of the TRIPs Agreement and familiarise with main TRIPs-related jurisprudence of the WTO on national treatment in IPRs and interpretation of the TRIPs Agreement in the context of the WTO.
- To understand to role of Preferential Trade Agreements in the field of IPRs.
- To understand the main forms of intellectual property rights (IPRs), in particular the protection of inventions, how to get and how to enforce or invalidate them.
- To understand the role of protection against unfair competition and its potential in the multilateral trading system.
- To discuss the main interconnection between intellectual property rights, innovation and global health.
- To deepen knowledge and assess the linkages of trademark protection, unfair competition, technical barriers to trade and health in a WTO case study.
- To understand the interface of – and to differentiate between – the legal, economic and policy dimension of international disputes.
- To get to know some of IPI’s tasks and services.
- To get to know the different patent application procedures.
- To understand the legal delays with patents.
- To understand the necessity of patent researches

**Monday, June 21, 2021**

**Lecturer:** Thomas Cottier  
**Subject:** Foundations & Legal Principles of IPRs

**Topics:** Introduction to Intellectual Property  
- The Legal Concept and Functions of Intellectual Property  
- A Brief History of Intellectual Property Protection  
- The Genesis of the TRIPS Agreement

- Common Features and Basic Principles of the International IPR System  
  - National Treatment and Reciprocity  
  - Most Favored Nation Treatment  
  - Territoriality  
  - Promotion of Creativity, Invention and Competition  
  - Ubiquity and Exhaustion of Rights  
  - Right of Priority  
  - Duration of Intellectual Property Rights  
    1. TRIPS Agreement Norms on Duration  
    2. Berne Convention Norms on Duration

**Compulsory Reading Material**

• Optional Materials
  • Thomas Cottier, Krista Nadakvularen Schefer (eds), Elgar Encyclopaedia of Public International Law, Cheltenham, Northampton 2017, pp. 516-537.
  • Thomas Cottier, Matthias Oesch, International Trade Regulation: Law and Policy in the WTO, The European Union and Switzerland, Bern London 2005 p. 924-928
  • Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (included in the WTO Legal Texts)
  • Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property,
  • Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
  • Additional WIPO Intellectual Property Agreements, Available at: https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Lecturer: Thomas Cottier
Subject: Main Forms Scope of IPRs & the Nature of IPRs & relation to HR
Topics:
• Unfair Competition Law and Survey of Different Forms of IP including Unfair Competition Law
  o The Protection of Unfair Competition
  o Copyright and Neighbouring Rights
  o Trademarks and Geographical Indications
  o Patents
  o Industrial Designs and Integrated Circuits
  o Trade Secrets and Undisclosed Information
• The Scope of Intellectual Property Rights
  o Rights
  o B. Exceptions
  o C. Voluntary Licensing
  o D. Compulsory Licensing
  o E. Relationship to Anti-trust and Competition Law

Compulsory Reading Material
• Thomas Cottier, Parallel Trade and Exhaustion of Intellectual Property in WTO Law Revisited, (2020)
• Thomas Cottier, Shahezza Lalani, Michelangelo Timmermann Use It or Lose It: Assessing the Compatibility of the Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement with Respect to Local Working Requirements, (2014)
• Thomas Cottier, Gabriela Wermelinger, Implementing and Enforcing Corporate Social Responsibility: The Potential of Unfair Competition Rules in International Law (2014),
• Thomas Cottier, Copyright and the Human Right to Property: a European and international law approach (2018)

Optional Reading Materials
• See Monday, and:
Lecturers: Erik Thevenod-Mottet and Martin Girsberger

Subject: Geographical Indications, the Protection of TK & Trademark protection part 1

Topics

Geographical Indications:
- Nature and protection of GIs
- International debates
- GIs and innovation

Traditional Knowledge:
- Notions of “genetic resources,” “traditional knowledge” and “biopiracy.”
- International fora involved.
- Measures available to protect traditional knowledge.

Reading Materials:

You need to have with you for the exercise in class:
- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (included in the WTO Legal Texts), in particular Art. 17 & 22 to 24;
- The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Articles 10, 10bis and 10ter.

Compulsory Reading

Geographical Indications:
- TRIPS: Geographical Indications. Background and the current situation
- What is a Geographical Indications? (WIPO)

Traditional Knowledge:
- WIPO, Background Brief No. 1, Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property.
- If you require more information on specific terminology, please consult the Glossary of Key Terms listed below in “Suggested readings”.

Glossary of Key Terms
Optional Reading Materials

Geographical Indications


Traditional Knowledge:

- WIPO, *Glossary of Key Terms Related to IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions.*
- Additional optional readings can be found on the WIPO website:
  - “Publications, Studies and Documents,” and
  - “Frequently Asked Questions.”
Afternoon Session 14:00 – 16:00

Lecturer: Kathrin Rüegsegger
Subject: Patent Protection & Public Health

Topics
A. The access issue: interplay between patent protection and access to medicines
B. The international policy debate and initiatives at the multilateral level; way forward
C. Case Study on the TRIPS waiver proposal; discussion

Background Documents:
You don’t have to read the following documents, but you have to bring them with you to class

- WTO Website, WTO Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, 14 November 2001: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm)
- WTO Website, WTO General Council’s Decision on the Amendment of the TRIPS Agreement, 6 December 2005: [http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres05_e/pr426_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres05_e/pr426_e.htm)

Compulsory Reading Material


• WTO, Fact Sheet TRIPS and pharmaceutical patents, September 2006, [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/factsheet_pharm00_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/factsheet_pharm00_e.htm)

• The Economist, The drugs industry – Battling borderless bugs, 7 January 2012 (2pp.): [http://www.economist.com/node/21542410](http://www.economist.com/node/21542410)


Suggested readings:


Optional Readings (if interested)


- WTO Website, TRIPS and Health: Frequently Asked Questions on compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals and TRIPS: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/public_health_faq_e.htm
- WTO Website, Pharmaceutical Patents and the TRIPS Agreement: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/pharma_ato186_e.htm

Thursday, June 24, 2021
Morning Session 09:00 – 12:00

Lecture: Jayashree Watal

Subject: Economics of Intellectual Property Rights

Topics:

- The economic trade-offs of Intellectual Property Rights
  - Difference between legal and economic classification of IPRs
  - Economics of Patents, including in the pharmaceutical sector
• Costs and benefits of IPRs in developing countries
  o Technology transfer
  o Access to Medicines
  o Climate Change

Compulsory Reading Material

- WTO: The Economic of TRIPS, a primer available at
  https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/trips_econprimer1_e.pdf

- WTO: Changing the Face of IP Trade and Policy Making, available at

- Maskus, Keith. E: ‘Globalisation and the Economics of IPRs’, Chapter 3 of
  Intellectual Property Rights in the Global Economy, Peterson Institute for
  International Economics, 2000, full text available at

Optional Reading Materials

- Maskus, Keith. E: ‘Big Stakes in Selling Knowledge’, Chapter 1 in Private Rights
  and Public Problems: The Global Economics of Intellectual Property in the 21st
  Century, Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2012, full text available at

  and Public Problems: The Global Economics of Intellectual Property in the 21st
  Century, Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2012, full text available at
  https://www.piie.com/publications/chapters_preview/5072/05iie5072.pdf

- WIPO: The Economics of Intellectual Property, Chapter 1, available at
  http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/economics/1
  012/wipo_pub_1012.pdf

  Hopkins Press, 1951.
Afternoon Session 14:00 – 16:00

Lecture: Matthias Käch
Subject: Trademark protection

Topics

• Absolute grounds of refusal
  o Descriptive terms
  o Misleading signs
  o Signs contrary to public order or morality

• Relative grounds of refusal
  o Similar trade marks
  o Similar goods and services
  o Likelihood of confusion
  o Comparison to unfair competition
  o Use of trade marks

Compulsory Reading Material

• Absolute Grounds of Trademark Refusal:

Optional Readings (if interested)

• WIPO: Making a Mark - An Introduction to Trademarks for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. (This practical guide for small and medium-sized enterprises explains how to use them strategically to help build and protect your brand)

• WIPO: In Good Company: Managing Intellectual Property Issues in Franchising. (Packed with examples and tips, this practical guide for business people outlines different types of franchise and takes you through the franchising process, identifying the key issues to consider at each stage)

Friday, June 25, 2021
Morning session: 09:00 – 12:00

Lecture: Kamran Houshang Pour & Matthias Käch

Subject: IGE Registration of Patents & Trademarks

Topics
- The Madrid System
- EUIPO trade mark
- European Patent Application system at EPO
- PCT Application

Compulsory Reading

Optional Reading Materials

• Espacenet Assistant, an e-learning module, [https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/technical/espacenet.html#tab1](https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/technical/espacenet.html#tab1)


**Afternoon session: 14:00 – 16:00**

**Lecture:** Julie Poupinet & Kamran Houshang Pour  
**Subject:** Patent & Trademark Landscaping

**Topics: Patent Landscaping:**

• Patent Searches  
• Statistical Patent Analysis  
• Patent Landscaping based on Statistical Analysis

**Trademark landscaping:**
- The importance of searching  
- Do-it-yourself search vs. professional search

**Compulsory Reading**

**Trademark landscaping**  
No additional reading required

**Optional Reading Materials**

• WIPO Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports  