

WTI Brown Bag Seminar



Title

The Demand-Side Politics of China's Global Buying Spree: Individual Attitudes toward Chinese Inward FDI Flows in Comparative Perspective

Speaker

SNSF Professor Damian Raess

Discussant

Professor Dr Patrick Ziltener, University of Zurich

When

Tuesday
12 March, 2019
12.30-13.30

Where

Anna Nussbaum Auditorium
World Trade Institute
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

Abstract

I investigate public opinion toward Chinese FDI inflows in advanced economies, comparing attitudes toward such investment with attitudes toward American and European FDI inflows. Specifically, I probe whether the threats of technology transfer and of social dumping associated with Chinese FDI resonate among the key target audiences. First, I expect managers to oppose Chinese FDI, while I do not expect similar opposition to American or European FDI. Second, I expect union members to oppose Chinese FDI, and to support European FDI more than they do American and, especially, Chinese FDI. Using original survey data from Switzerland, I find strong support for the expectations regarding managers. Surprisingly, union members do not oppose Chinese FDI, but they support European and to a lesser extent American FDI. The findings point to occupational characteristics and unions as key factors shaping FDI preferences, and suggest that the demand-side politics of Chinese inward FDI is unique.

This is the first of a two-part Brown Bag Seminar. The second seminar will be delivered by Mr. Wolfgang Müller of IG Metall (Germany) on 21 March 2019 in the WTI's Silva Casa Auditorium. Mr. Müller will speak about **Chinese Investors and Effects on Labor Relations and Co-Determination**. Please check back on our [Events](#) page for details.

Biographies can be found on page 2.

Biography of the speaker

Damian Raess joined the WTI, University of Bern, as SNSF Professor in January 2017. Trained as a political scientist (BA, University of Lausanne; MA and PhD, University of Amsterdam), he specialises in international political economy. His main research interests lie in the nexus between globalisation and labour.

His project, entitled 'BRICS globalization and labor protections in advanced and emerging economies', deals with the incorporation of the BRICS economies in the world economy and its consequences for labour politics and employment relations in Europe and in the BRICS. He previously led a collaborative and interdisciplinary research project on the causes and consequences of labour standards in trade agreements funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). One of the outputs of the project is a new, comprehensive dataset on labour provisions in preferential trade agreements (LABPTA dataset).

He has been a visiting scholar in the political science department at MIT and in the labour and workforce programme at Harvard University, and a visiting lecturer at KU Leuven, the University of Amsterdam, and the Graduate Institute in Geneva. He was a lecturer at the University of Geneva (2010-2015) before moving to the University of Reading. Google scholar profile:

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=vZd-ICgAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Biography of the discussant

Patrick Ziltener (CH) is an Associate Professor at the University of Zurich and Director of a research project sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

Patrick Ziltener has analyzed multi- and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTA) for more than 15 years, in cooperation with Switzerland Global Enterprise, Chambers of Commerce and other trade-related organizations. From 2006 to 2009 he was State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Senior Advisor for Economic Relations with East Asia and Secretary of the Free Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (FTEPA) Switzerland- Japan negotiations.

Patrick Ziltener studied in Basel, Berlin (Free University) and Zurich Economics and Sociology, and received a Ph.D. from University of Zurich in 1997. 2000-02 he was a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) in Cologne, Germany. 2003-05 he conducted a SNSF-Research project on Regional Integration in East Asia, research in Indonesia (ASEAN Secretariat), Singapore (APEC Secretariat) and other ASEAN countries. In 2001 and again 2004 he was visiting researcher at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). He has published, among others, in Asian Survey, International Quarterly for Asian Studies, ASIEN - Quarterly Journal of the German Association for Asian Studies, Swiss Review of International Economic Relations, International Journal of Comparative Sociology (IJCS), Review of International Political Economy (RIPE), and the Journal of World-Systems Research.