

Circular Economy, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Action

Semester: Spring Semester- FS 2024

Root Number: 489045

ECTS: 3 ECT – (20 hours)

Lecturer: Dr. Jack Barrie, Dr. Christophe Bellmann and Dr. Carolyn Deere
Birkbeck

Dates: **July 15th-18th 2024**

Room: The course will be held on-site at the World Trade Institute and online on Zoom.

Audience:

- Government officials; Embassy staff; people working for international organizations 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

This course will introduce students to the intersections between international trade and the circular economy and in particular how trade can facilitate the transition to an inclusive circular economy. The course will first introduce students to the many different global developments emerging on the circular economy (at the national, regional and intergovernmental levels) as well as the emerging tensions and debates associated with the topic. Subsequently, we will explore how to

harness the international trade system to advance a globally equitable and inclusive transition to a circular economy. We will look at how the circular economy transition may fundamentally alter value chains and therefore future trade patterns as well as the different types of trade flow which enable the circular economy. We will then look at the many trade barriers facing these trade flows (including definitions and classifications, technical barriers to trade, trade facilitation, capacity building and finally trade and economic agreements) and identify potential solutions to these barriers. This course will be of particular interest to students and policy makers

Lecturers

Dr Jack Barrie

Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)

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Dr Jack Barrie is an expert on the topic of the circular economy with over a decade over experience. In his current role as Research Fellow at Chatham House, Jack leads on pioneering research examining the intersections between the circular economy and international trade, geopolitics, finance (including Green Taxonomies) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He works on a range of different global projects including the European Commissions' flagship circular economy project - SWITCH to Circular Value Chains and the UNCTAD Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme. As a result of his research, he regularly advises high-ranking public-sector officials and private sector leaders and has conducted independent research for UN and WCO amongst others.



He is a member several international advisory groups including the TESS expert group on trade related circular economy measures and policies and a specialist advisor to UNECE on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy. In addition to his work at Chatham House, Jack is an editor of the Circular Economy journal and commonly lectures on the Circular Economy and Sustainability (most recently at London Imperial and Strathclyde University).

Jack holds a PhD (University of Strathclyde) on circular economy innovation policy, two masters degrees in Engineering for Sustainable Development (University of Cambridge) and Civil and Environmental Engineering (University of Edinburgh) as well as a Diploma (Aalborg University) on Theories of Sustainable Transitions. He has worked in a technical capacity on a range of radical sustainable technologies across Europe, Africa and Asia including solar home systems, airborne wind energy systems and desalination plants.

Dr Christophe Bellman

Christophe Bellmann is the Head of Policy Analysis and Strategy at the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs. Since 2014, he also serves as advisor to the group of least developed countries in WTO negotiations including on fisheries subsidies. Before joining TESS, Mr. Bellmann was a Senior Policy Advisor at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and held various positions at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). He has also worked in different capacities for various international organizations including FAO, UNCTAD, the OECD, the WTO and ECLAC.

Carolyn Deere Birkbeck

Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck is the Founder and Executive Director of the Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS), housed at the Geneva Graduate Institute. TESS is dedicated to supporting the multilateral dialogue, inclusive international cooperation, and policy action necessary to align trade and trade policies with the urgent need for environmental action, sustainable development, and just transitions. Carolyn has been active for over 25 years in providing thought leadership on ways to foster inclusive dialogue on a more sustainable and equitable global economy, engaging with a broad diversity of governments, stakeholders, and experts on different policy challenges relevant to this goal.

Learning Objectives

- To provide an introduction to the main global developments associated with the transition to a circular economy
- To provide participants with practical examples for how the circular economy transition may fundamentally alter value chains and therefore future trade patterns.
- To better recognise the potential barriers to trade generated by domestic circular legislation and the geopolitical consequences thereof
- To provide a comprehensive understanding of how trade can facilitate the transition to an inclusive circular economy
- To evaluate whether international trade rules are adequate and identify areas of opportunity for them evolve to better facilitate a global and inclusive circular economy transition.

Assessment

- Students' knowledge will be assessed on a combination of in class workshop participation (30%) and a take home exam which needs to be completed on an

individual basis.

- The take home exam will consist of a short paper (2000 words) offering a critical reflection on choice topics covered within the course to be submitted by 19 July 2024 no later than 20:00 (CET) to masters@wti.org
 - Option 1: critical analysis on how the CE transition will reconfigure global trade flows and what trade solutions need to be put in place to ensure the transition is inclusive and equitable for all;
 - Option 2: Pick a specific piece of circular legislation and present a summary of:
 - (i) the domestic industrial changes that will result in and hence trade;
 - (ii) how that might impact trade partners (and stakeholders);
 - (iii) identify solutions to mitigate the negative impacts.

Course Overview

Date	Day	Time	Topic / lecturer
15 th July	Monday	10:00 12:00	The circular economy: A conceptual overview (Dr Barrie)
		13:00 16:00	Global circular economy developments (Dr Barrie)
			Workshop 1: CE legislation and TBT (Dr Barrie)
16 th July	Tuesday	10:00 12:00	How will the global CE transition impact trade flows (Dr Barrie)
			Group discussion
		13:00 16:00	Trade barriers to circular enabling trade flows (Dr Barrie)
17 th July	Wednesday		Workshop 2: Improving the trade system for an inclusive CE
		10:00 12:00	Inclusion of CE in trade agreements (Dr Bellmann)
		13:00 16:00	Role of WTO (& other intergovernmental institutions) (Dr Bellmann)
18 th July	Thursday		Trade and the Global Plastics Treaty (Deere-Birkbeck)
		10:00 12:00	Enhancing transparency and traceability: Deep dive into the Harmonized System of Codes (Dr Barrie)
		13:00 16:00	Wrap up and summary discussion
19 th July	Friday		Case study/exam (take-home assessment)
		Due 20:00	Submit exam

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**Lecturer:** Dr Jack Barrie**Subject:** Global Developments on the Circular Economy**Topics**

- A conceptual refresher of the circular economy
- Global circular economy developments (including supranational developments & circular economy national roadmaps, policies and legislation)
- EU case study: Ecodesign for Sustainable Products regulation
- Workshop 1: CE legislation and TBT

Compulsory Reading Material

- [The role of trade for transitioning to an inclusive circular economy](#)
- Global Stocktake of Circular Economy Roadmaps (Chatham House and UNIDO) (To be published April 2024)
- [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#)
- [The EU's Circular Economy transition for plastic and textiles: Opportunities and challenges for trade partners in emerging markets](#)
- [Brink H, Lucas P, Baldé C, Kuehr R \(2021\) Potential effects of Dutch circular economy strategies on low- and middle-income countries: the case of electrical and electronic equipment. PBL](#)

Optional Reading Material

- [What is a circular economy?](#)
- [Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers \(EMF, 2015\)](#)
- [Kettunen M, Gionfra S, Monteville M \(2019\) EU circular economy and trade: improving policy coherence for sustainable development. IEEP](#)
- [Qu S et al \(2019\) Implications of China's foreign waste ban on the global circular economy. Resour Conserv Recycl 144:252–255](#)

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**Lecturer 1:** Dr Jack Barrie**Subject:** How will the global CE transition impact trade flows**Topics**

- Lecture 1:
 - The growing 'Circularity Divide' and how to avoid it
 - Types of trade which enable a circular economy
- Lecture 2:
 - Trade barriers to circular enabling trade flows (Definitions and classifications, Technical barriers to trade, Trade facilitation, Capacity building, Trade and economic agreements)
 - Circular trade facilitation solutions

Compulsory Reading Material

- Lecture 1:
 - [The circularity divide: What is it? And how do we avoid it?](#)
 - [The role of trade for transitioning to an inclusive circular economy](#)
 - [Van Der Ven C The Circular Economy, Trade, and Development: Addressing spillovers and leveraging opportunities. \(Tulip, 2020\)](#)
- Lecture 2:
 - [Trade for an inclusive circular economy](#)
 - [Securing reverse supply chains for a resource efficient and circular economy](#)

Optional Reading Material

- [Circular Economy and International Trade: a Systematic Literature Review](#)
- [Trade and the Circular Economy \(ICC\)](#)
- [Repp L, Hekkert M, Kirchherr J Circular economy-induced global employment shifts in apparel value chains: job reduction in apparel production activities, job growth in reuse and recycling activities. Resour. Conserv. Recycl. 171, \(2021\)](#)
- [Saara T et al \(2020\) Trading Services for a Circular Economy. SITRA and IISD](#)
- [Yamaguchi S \(2021\) International trade and circular economy - Policy alignment. OECD](#)
- [Steinfatt K \(2020\) Trade policies for a circular economy: what can we learn from WTO experience? WTO](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH, 2024**Lecturer: Dr Bellmann & Dr Deere-Birkbeck****Subject**

- Lecture 1: Inclusion of CE in trade agreements & CE and the WTO (role of TESS and TESSD?) (Dr Bellman)
- Lecture 2: Trade and the Global Plastics Treaty

Topics

- How can CE be better integrated into trade agreements
- What is the role of the WTO in facilitating circular economy enabling trade
- Multilateral environmental agreements and trade
- An insight into the role of trade in the ongoing Plastics Treaty negotiations

Compulsory Reading Material

- [Bellmann C, Sell M Options to Incorporate Circular Economy Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements. \(IISD, 2021\)](#)
- [Promoting and Facilitating Trade in Environmental Goods and Services: Lessons From Regional Trade Agreements](#)
- [Options for Trade-Related Cooperation on Problematic and Avoidable Plastics: Building on Existing Experiences with Single-Use Plastics](#)

Optional Reading Material

- [Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations](#)
- [INC Website](#)
- [Zero draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 18TH, 2024**Lecturer: Dr Barrie****Subject:** Enhancing transparency and traceability: Deep dive into the Harmonized System of Codes**Topics**

- Overview of Harmonized System of Codes
- Analysis of how HS Codes help/hinder CE enabling trade flows
- Exploration of potential solutions

Compulsory Reading Material

- [HS Codes and the Circular Economy](#)

FRIDAY, JULY 19TH, 2024

- Take-home assessment due 20:00