

WTI Brown Bag Seminar



Title

Trade as a Foreign Policy Issue: A Bilateral Micro Perspective
by Thomas Sattler and Tanja Schweinberger

Speaker

Tanja Schweinberger (Université de Genève)

When

Thursday
6 December 2018
12:30-13:30

Where

Silva Casa Auditorium
World Trade Institute
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

Abstract

In an international system where cooperation appears increasingly at risk, a central question is to what extent citizens constrain governments by supporting the norms of the liberal international order. We, therefore, examine how much the mass publics in the U.S., Australia and Germany value reciprocity as a key cooperative principle in international trading relations. This analysis requires that we use a bilateral perspective departing from the common approach to examine trade preferences unilaterally without consideration of the behaviour and characteristics of the trading partner. Our survey experiments show that reciprocity continues to play an important role. However, a significant share of unconditional, non-cooperative attitudes exists, especially towards countries that are perceived as adversaries. Variation in these responses are best explained by perceptions of the other country as political adversary as concerns for relative gains become eminent. Trade and foreign policy issues are particularly intertwined when facing a political adversary. To the extent that the growing anti-globalization sentiment is rooted in these international political considerations, the threat to trade cooperation is more fundamental than often assumed.

Biography of the speaker

Tanja Schweinberger is a PhD-candidate at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Geneva since 2017. Her research field is International Political Economy. In her research, she combines insights from China's domestic political system and International Relations. In her dissertation, she examines cooperation and conflict in trading relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States. To this end, she uses survey experiments and structural topic modeling. From February 2019 onwards, her research will be funded by the SNF project "Cooperation and Conflict in Chinese-U.S. Economic Relations". Before coming to Geneva, she studied Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz (Germany). She also obtained a Master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom).