

World Trade Institute

Annual Report 2020



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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

From the Managing Director

The year 2020 has posed many challenges for the WTI. The dominant driver has been the COVID-19 epidemic, which has disrupted operations across the university, as well as across our broader research and training network. These challenges range from how we deliver courses, to how students serve their internships, severe limitations on academic events, and even basic access to physical facilities. Members of the WTI community have also faced family challenges linked to the pandemic. I am proud of how we have adapted and risen to face these challenges. COVID-19 measures have forced us to bring forward plans for online and blended teaching. We have also adopted new modes for interacting with students (for example small group tutorials) to help students adapt to very limited physical interaction with WTI faculty and other students. The communications and IT team have also made an outstanding and much appreciated effort to support continued communication and course delivery as we have come to rely more on digital rather than physical presence for our basic operations over the year.

Thanks to the efforts of staff and students alike, and despite unusual circumstances due to COVID-19, 2020 has been an eventful and exciting year for the WTI. We continued our outreach activities and strengthened cooperation with our external partners. This includes the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and the 'Know the GAP' gender lecture series. We also organized a well-attended webinar series on the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the global economy. Indeed, 2020 has seen a broadening of our reach through webinars and online lectures to a more geographically diverse audience. Our events calendar is constantly growing, and you can stay up to date on WTI events by visiting the Events page on our website. You can also check out the Events section in this report for an overview of our 2020 events.

On the scientific front, WTI researchers continue with high-impact publications on the economic, legal, and political challenges faced by the global economy. We also produced the first sustainability impact assessment of a trade



and investment agreement done by the Swiss Economics Ministry (SECO). In addition to ongoing projects on migration, sustainability, foreign investment, and trade policy, we managed to start new research projects as well in 2020. This includes work with partners like the OECD and World Bank. Details can be found in the report.

On the education front, we have further consolidated our new programme structure, in particular the MILE, TRAIL+ and CAS/DAS programmes. We continue to deliver tailor-made training programmes to government officials both in Bern and internationally, and host (largely online) numerous events and special lectures for students, alumni, diplomats and the public. Details on developments in these programmes, as well as the Doctoral School and Winter and Summer Academies, can be found in the report as well.

We hope you take the opportunity to learn more about our work at the WTI through this annual report. For the most up-to-date information about our institute, including news stories, recent publications and a list of upcoming events, please visit:

www.wti.org

Joseph Francois
Managing Director
World Trade Institute

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The Institute

The World Trade Institute was established in 1999 to train future practitioners and researchers from all over the world and to strengthen research capacities in the field of international trade and investment regulation. The WTI combines graduate-level education and interdisciplinary research in law, economics and political science, as well as specialised advisory services. We recruit students, researchers, faculty and employees from around the world, creating a diverse culture and stimulating environment.

Executive Board



Administration

Members of the Advisory Board

- Arthur Appleton
- Richard Baldwin
- Thomas Bernauer
- Didier Chambovey
- Thomas Cottier
- Victor do Prado
- Roberto Echandi
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- Bernard Hoekman
- Beata Javorcik
- Gabrielle Marceau
- Joakim Reiter



Highlights of the Year

Research Projects

The BRICS Globalization and Labour Protections research project at the World Trade Institute launched its own website in January 2020. The BRICS team, led by Prof. Damian Raess, have set up a dedicated website to highlight their research and foreground related publications and events. The website can be found here:

www.bricsglobalization.weebly.com/

The CLIM_CO_2 environmental migration project has also launched its own website – www.climco2.org - to highlight the research being carried out by the WTI-based team led by Prof. Elisa Fornalé. The project aims to approach environmental migration from a fresh perspective, regarding the issue as a ‘common concern of humankind’. It involves a case study in the South Pacific region that focuses on the ‘sinking islands’.

The SDSN Switzerland Assembly, held on 18 February 2020 in Bern, provided a platform for members, partners and other stakeholders to explore ways of cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Members and partners were invited to present their activities in the form of a market place, which promoted exchange with other participants and stakeholders. The WTI, represented by Octavio Fernández-Amador, Brigitta Imeli, Doris Oberdabernig and Patrick Tomberger, organized a market stand to present the WTI’s research activities, focusing on the insights derived from the NRP 73 project on Switzerland’s Sustainability footprint on ecological footprints resulting from consumption and production processes in Switzerland.

For more information about the new and on-going research projects at the WTI, please visit the **Research section** of this report.

Publications

The World Trade Review (WTR) was established at the initiative of the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in close cooperation with Cambridge University Press. It is an independent journal - the Editor and all but one member of the Editorial Board are drawn from university faculties - that includes articles written from economic, legal, political and inter-disciplinary perspectives on issues of relevance to the multilateral trading system. Priority is given to papers that, along with being academically rigorous, are also accessible to government policy officials and the wider public. The journal also includes shorter articles seeking to rebut or challenge published papers. As of July 2020, the new editorial team to lead the WTR consists of:

- Peter van den Bossche, Professor of International Economic Law at the University of Bern and Director of Studies of the World Trade Institute.
- Manfred Elsig, Professor of International Relations at the University of Bern and Deputy Managing Director of the World Trade Institute.
- Joseph Francois, Professor of International Economics at the University of Bern and Managing Director of the World Trade Institute.
- Mona Pinchis-Paulsen, Assistant Professor of International Economic Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

In 2020, the WTI was pleased to have numerous books, book chapters, articles, datasets and working papers published by our researchers.

All 2020 publications by our researchers can be found on our website:

www.wti.org/research/publications/

Events

In 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the WTI hosted and co-organised a number of online events and activities including workshops, tailor-made trainings, summer academies, doctoral colloquia, special lectures, larger conferences and smaller seminars.

On 24 July 2020, Prof. Emeritus Thomas Cottier, former WTI Managing Director, delivered a keynote address on ‘Some Reflections on the Multilateral Trading System in a Multipolar World’ at the Closing Ceremony of the 2019-20 Advanced Master’s Programmes.

On 9 September 2020, Giorgio Sacerdoti, Prof. Emeritus in International law, Department of Legal Studies, Bocconi University, delivered the keynote lecture on 'WTO post COVID-19: What Challenges for the Multilateral Trading System?' at the Opening Ceremony of the 2020-21 Advanced Master's Programmes.

The annual World Trade Forum, which the WTI co-organised with the European University Institute (EUI) on 22 and 23 September 2020, was also held online. The main theme was 'The Future of Trade Policy and External Cooperation: is Soft Power Passé?'

For more details about our events in 2020, please visit the **Events section** of this report.

Outreach

In April 2020, the WTI launched the 'Pandemic and the Global Economy: a Virtual Workshop Series'. The WTI organised ten sessions with eminent speakers in panels on topics related to global economic governance and COVID-19. These virtual workshops were well attended and its recordings can be found on the WTI's website.

The WTI carried out applied research and impact assessments including a study on the possible consequences of the EFTA-Mercosur free trade agreement for the environment and agriculture, which was commissioned by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). As part of the World Bank's 'Deep Integration' project, the WTI was in charge of the 'Dataset on Labor Market Regulation Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)'. Damian Raess, SNSF professor at the

WTI, provided evidence to both Houses of the UK Parliament on the level playing field in UK-EU trade negotiations.

The WTI also conducted workshops in the field of WTO dispute settlement and investor-state dispute settlement for members of the Uzbek judiciary, and an introductory course in trade policy for Uzbek trade officials.

For more information about our tailor-made trainings and partnerships, visit the **Outreach section** of this report.

Education

Due to increased interest in the week-long modules offered in our Summer Academy, the WTI announced in 2018 the creation of the Winter Academy. Both the Winter and Summer Academies cover cutting-edge issues in trade and investment law and policy. They are designed for private and public sector and civil society professionals as well as higher-education students. In 2020, the WTI hosted the Summer Academy online for the first time. More information about our week-long modules can be found in the Graduate Programmes section of this report.

Aylin Yildiz and Iryna Bogdanova, PhD candidates in Law at the World Trade Institute (WTI), have received runner-up awards in the 'Hours of Crisis' competition run by the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands on 18 January 2020. The prizes were awarded at the closing ceremony of the Winter Courses of the Hague Academy of International Law by its Secretary-General Jean-Marc Thouvenin.



Graduate Programmes

MAS in International Law and Economics (MILE)

In 2020, nine students representing seven nations finished the coursework of the MILE programme (MILE 20) and another twelve students from ten nations embarked on it (MILE 21). A further 92 external participants joined the programme on a weekly basis, through our à la carte offer, to study topics of specific interest to them.

Established in 1999, the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International Law and Economics (MILE) was the first educational offer of the WTI. This programme remains synonymous with the Institute, although it is now just one of a range of programmes offered. This 90 ECTS programme is interdisciplinary in nature and trains students in methodologies and ways of thinking other than those of their initial area of specialisation. The comprehensive knowledge of the law, economics and politics of international trade and investment, prepares them well for work in international organisations, government ministries, academic institutions, global companies and internationally operating law firms.

The tuition fee for the MILE programme is **21,000 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the MILE programme, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/master/mile

MAS in Trade and Investment Law & DAS in International Law and Economics (TRAIL+)

In 2020, seven students representing two nations finished the coursework of the TRAIL+ programme (TRAIL+ 3) and another nine students from six nations embarked on it (TRAIL+ 4).

Established in 2017, the TRAIL+ programme combines a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Trade and Investment Law (LL.M.) with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. This programme is offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. The programme includes more law courses and fewer courses in economics and political science than the MILE programme. A total of 60 ECTS are required to fulfil the LL.M. requirement while an additional 30 ECTS must be completed in the social science courses of the WTI to fulfil the DAS requirement. The in-depth knowledge of the law of international trade and investment combined with the understanding of the related economics and politics, prepares them well for work as lawyers in the public or private sector or as legal scholars.

The tuition fee for the TRAIL+ programme is **21,000 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the TRAIL+ (LL.M.) programme, please visit our website: www.wti.org/education/master/trail

The **John H. Jackson Internship Fund** continued into its fourth year in 2020, providing financial support to a WTI master's student undertaking a three-month internship of an interdisciplinary nature that would otherwise be unpaid. The fund consists of generous contributions made by the family of the late Prof. Jackson and WTI faculty members. The Selection Committee, chaired by Dr Lee Ann Jackson, awarded the 2020 John H. Jackson Internship Prize to Lisa Ningombam of India. The award enabled her to pursue an internship at SIDERA Consult. SIDERA Consult is a multidisciplinary consulting firm headquartered in São Paulo, Brazil, focused on international trade, government interface, and law and economics.

CAS/DAS in International Law and Economics

In 2020, 13 persons were pursuing the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics.

The CAS and DAS programmes are open to participants with undergraduate degrees and relevant professional experience, with applications being accepted on a rolling basis. Participants who complete 8 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper may be awarded a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics. Participants who complete 22 ECTS of coursework and write a research paper may be awarded a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. CAS/DAS students benefit from the mentorship of a senior WTI academic advisor during the duration of their study.

The tuition fee is **4,000 Swiss francs** for the CAS ILE, and **10,000 Swiss francs** for the DAS ILE.

For more information about the CAS ILE and DAS ILE programmes, please visit our website:
www.wti.org/education/other/cas-das-programmes

Winter and Summer Academy

Since 2019, the WTI offers both a Winter and Summer Academy. These consist of weekly courses, which are also open to external participants. The WTI's 2020 Winter Academy took place from 20 January until 14 February 2020. Course topics included: WTO Law on Border Management and Trade Facilitation; WTO Law on Anti-Dumping and Safeguard Measures; WTO Law on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and The Law and Policy of Trade in Services. The Summer Academy ran from 22 June until 27 July 2020 and included courses on: WTO Law on TBT & SPS Measures, Module I: Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection: Foundations and Challenges; Module II: Intellectual Property and the Digital Economy; Applied General Equilibrium Modelling on Trade Policy and

Development; Trade and Agriculture: New Challenges; International Investment Law and Dispute Settlement: Current Developments and Trade and Sustainable Development. 92 students participated in both academies.

Tuition for one week is **1,200 Swiss francs**, for two weeks **2,200 Swiss francs** and for three weeks **3,200 Swiss francs**.

For more information about the Winter and Summer Academies, please visit our website:
www.wti.org/education/other/winter-and-summer-programmes

Doctoral Programme

In 2020, three students were accepted into the WTI Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration to start their PhD research in law and economics. They will start their doctoral studies in spring of 2021. Lucia Satragno, Alexander Beyleveld, Judith Wehrli, Zaker Ahmad and Iryna Bogdanova completed and successfully defended their PhD theses. At the end of 2020, the Graduate School comprised 26 PhD students, of whom 12 were women. The majority were law students (17), followed by students of economics (6) and political science (3).

In 2020, the WTI organised two PhD colloquia. Seven students presented their work in March and four students presented their research in September, to receive feedback from their supervisors, WTI faculty, and fellow PhD students. In August and September 2020, PhD students attended a seminar on scientific writing by Marc Matter. In November and December 2020, PhD students attended a seminar on effective presentations in English, also by Marc Matter.

Following the positive experience with the PhD Summer School in previous years, the WTI offered two week-long PhD Summer School courses in 2020, namely a course on 'Gravity Models and Panel Econometrics' by Prof. Michael Pfaffermayr, Professor of International Economics at the University of Innsbruck, Austria and senior researcher at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research, and on 'The International Law of State Responsibility' by



Prof. Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Professor of Public International Law at the School of Law, Queen Mary University of London and Prof. Antonios Tzanakopoulos, Associate Professor of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law and Fellow in Law at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. In total, 41 PhD students from Swiss and other European universities attended one or more of the 2020 PhD Summer School courses.

For more information about the Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration, please visit our website:
www.wti.org/education/doctoral-programme

WTI-CWS Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy in India

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 7th edition of the Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy had to be postponed and will be held online in June 2021.

For more information on the WTI-CWS Joint Academy, please visit our website:
<https://www.wti.org/education/other/winter-and-summer-programmes/>

The annual WTI-CWS Joint Academy was established by the WTI and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in 2014. Its objective is to enable law students and legal professionals in India to increase their knowledge of and exposure to issues pertinent to international trade regulation and economic governance.

Research

Complexity - Complexity and the structure and regulation of trade and investment

The main objective of this research project is the analysis of the relationship between changes in the institutional architecture governing trade and investment flows and the emergence of Global Value Chains (GVCs).

Following revolutionary advances in information technology that occurred in the early 90s, the production of goods and services underwent changes that radically altered the world's economic and political landscape. The lower cost of transferring ideas and technology resulted in the fragmentation of production across countries and continents. Simultaneously, countries increasingly turned to bilateral foreign economic policy in order to foster their participation in the global production system. This resulted in a complex web of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and investment agreements (IAs), which themselves increased in complexity due to the development of provisions included in those agreements. This gave rise to the trade and investment development nexus, which is the objective of analysis of the project. Methodologically, it will partly be based on techniques that are suitable for the analysis of complex systems.

The first year of the project was dedicated to the processing and merging of different data sources and to a comprehensive literature review of different methodologies and concepts used in computer science and biology to characterise complex systems. Databases of PTAs (DESTA) and IAs (EDIT) were integrated and analysed. The purpose of such an exercise is to provide a comprehensive and holistic descriptive view of the different modes of institutional regional integration that govern trade and investment flows. On the investment and trade flows side, recent advances in disaggregating gross bilateral trade into value added components at the sectoral level were reviewed and applied to multiregional input-output data. Following this initial phase of the

project, the relation between the evolution of countries' positions in the complex world economic production system and their policies will be further analysed.

The project is under the leadership of Prof. Joseph Francois, and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). It runs from 2017 to 2021 and has funding of 465,220 Swiss francs.

EDIT

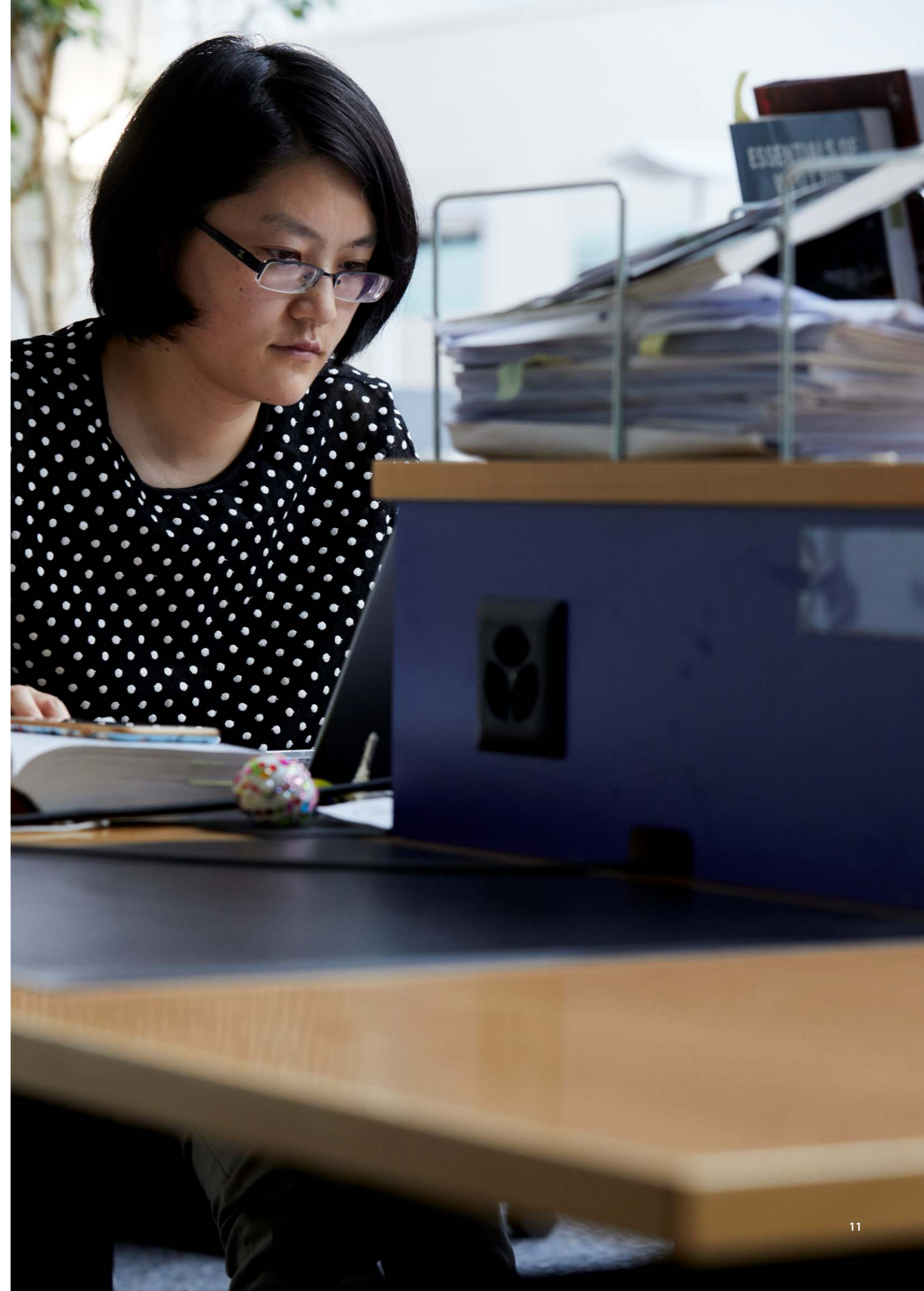
The Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT) is a new comprehensive full text database on international investment agreements (IIAs). Its goal is to facilitate informed public discourse, evidence-based reform, and academic study of the international investment regime by providing unprecedented access to the most extensive set of IIA texts to date.

As a fully machine-readable database, EDIT allows for efficient search through all IIAs, including through pre-defined content categories. All texts have been standardised and are now available in one single language (English) and format (XML). In addition, EDIT embraces a Wiki model, whereby users can correct and help improve the data.

Treaty texts were collected, digitised and non-English texts translated through machine translation software. Articles and paragraphs of the agreements were categorised using different techniques (automated labelling and based on a keyword dictionary, as well as on manual annotation).

The project used texts and metadata of international investment agreements (IIAs) found in governmental webpages, as well as in open databases, and transformed them into a machine-readable format that allows analysis on the article, chapter or treaty-level of the IIAs texts. In the process of collecting these agreements, the project team found some 'missing investment treaties' that were not previously available in other databases. All IIAs that were not found in English were translated into that language, using machine and manual translation.

All available texts of IIAs are included in EDIT, regardless if they are currently in force. Through this database, the project team aims to support researchers, scholars, students, practitioners,





international organisations, policy-makers, civil society members and other stakeholders in their work and studies concerning international investment law. The forthcoming website will be an on-going collaborative effort that can involve academia and international organisations. All users can correct or improve the data, following the Wiki model.

The EDIT webpage is available as a free service by the WTI at www.edit.wti.org/. EDIT was developed during the implementation of the SNIS-funded project 'Diffusion of International Law: A Textual Analysis of International Investment Agreements' (2015–2017), in cooperation with the University of Ottawa (Prof. Wolfgang Alschner) through funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the World Bank. From the WTI, Prof. Manfred Elsig and Dr Rodrigo Polanco are co-leaders of EDIT.

Further information: Alschner, W., Elsig, M., & Polanco, R. (2021). Introducing the Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT): The Genesis of a New Database and Its Use. *World Trade Review*, 20(1), 73-94. doi:10.1017/S147474562000035X

Global Value Chains and Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements

Global value chains (GVCs) of multinational enterprises are complex and encompass different cross-border supply relationships that include various forms of trade, investment, and strategic partnerships. Yet, the complexity of these relationships and their interactions are not always fully understood, and there is a widespread perception that they may not be comprehensively and coherently addressed in international frameworks such as preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The objective of this project is to develop a more comprehensive and nuanced coding of GVC-related provisions in PTAs, and to assess their coherence across relevant provisions as well as between agreements.

This project under the supervision of Prof. Manfred Elsig builds on the existing Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) dataset and uses inputs from the EDIT dataset on bilateral investment treaties, and the Big Data project, particularly the database entitled 'Trade Agreement Provisions on E-commerce and Data Flows' (TAPED).

By the end of 2019, the project finished coding over 210 variables related to GVCs in PTAs such as investment chapters, provisions on market access for goods and services, entry of business persons, e-commerce and data flows, capital movement and exchange rates, intellectual property rights, regulatory cooperation, and transparency and competition, in over 690 PTAs.

The data will be made public in the course of the 2020. In collaboration with colleagues at the OECD, a research note and a technical date to describe the database are developed.

NRP 73 - Switzerland's Sustainability Footprint: Economic and Legal Challenges

This research project is part of the NRP 73 and is directed by Prof. Joseph Francois. Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the project runs from 2017 to 2021 and has funding of 863,950 Swiss francs. In this year, the research team completed the tasks of work packages 1 and 4, and started the tasks for work package 3. With respect to the work package 3, the project team collaborates with

the World Trade Organization in the development of carbon dioxide, methane and energy projections.

Within the work package 1, the researchers developed and revised international footprint inventories datasets on energy, Carbon Dioxide and Methane emissions, forest and land use and water use. These inventories contain environmental footprint indicators based on territorial production, final production, and consumption patterns for the years 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2011, and 2014. Additionally, cantonal input output and environmental accounts were developed for the same years.

The authors carried out applied analysis using these datasets, and three articles were published in scientific journals since the last report. The first one analyzed the patterns of convergence of Carbon Dioxide emissions and was published in *Environmental and Resource Economics*. There, the authors address international convergence in carbon dioxide emissions per capita and per value added derived from emission inventories based on production and consumption patterns. The results highlight the current incompatibility between emission targets and economic growth and the need for faster diffusion of green technologies. Moreover, there is no evidence for specific convergence dynamics in



the European Union, the OECD, or the countries that are subject to binding emission constraints specified in the Kyoto Protocol. The institutional frameworks implemented in industrialized countries did not induce faster convergence among developed economies.

Two other published articles analyze methane emissions. The first one, published in *Ecological Economics*, presents the dataset of methane inventories constructed. Several stylized facts related to methane emissions are then presented. First, anthropogenic methane emissions are quantitatively important for global warming and increased by about 18% from 1997 to 2014. Second, the bulk of produced emissions is attributable to developing economies, though a considerable amount is exported mainly via manufactured goods to high-income countries, which are net-importers of methane. Third, trade-embodied emissions increased by 8% more than nationally produced emissions during 1997–2014, with the strongest increase experienced by China, India, and Indonesia. Fourth, decompositions of the growth rate of emissions over this period suggest that methane efficiency improved, but the effect of these efficiency gains on total emissions was outweighed by the effect of economic and population growth in low- and middle-income countries. In high-income countries, by contrast, methane efficiency gains were larger than the effect of economic and population growth.

The second article, published in the journal *Applied Economics*, on methane emissions analyzes the impacts of economic growth on methane emissions per capita at the sectoral level for the period 1997–2014. The analysis covers three stages of the supply chain, distinguishing between emissions embodied in production, final production, and consumption. The authors investigate the effects of economic growth on two components of methane emissions per capita, namely methane emissions per unit of value added and value added per capita. This study uncovers substantial heterogeneity across sectors. Economic growth led to expansions of economic activity in all sectors but reduced the methane intensity of sectoral value added in some sectors. In sectors that experienced pronounced reductions in methane intensity, economic growth did not strongly affect emissions per capita. However, in the absence of large methane-intensity gains, economic growth raised emission per capita substantially.

In work package 4, a case study on Swiss-based private sustainability standards with requirements on environmental sustainability has been conducted. One core aim of this analysis is to provide recommendations for a Swiss negotiating position on green labeling in the relevant WTO committee.

The project team performed a two-fold legal analysis to examine whether the schemes at scrutiny are captured by current WTO rules: (1) a qualitative analysis of the landscape of Swiss private sustainability standards; (2) an investigation into whether government incentives to or participation in such standards' adoption and implementation can be discerned. The results indicate substantial sectoral differences as regards Swiss-based private sustainability standards' number and their level of exposure to WTO scrutiny. These



distinctions correlate with state measures restricting foreign competition in the Swiss market. Trade concerns arise in the sectors of agriculture and cosmetics: the majority of Swiss-based private sustainability standards in place exclude foreign products from certification. The results of work package 4 will be published in a policy brief and a policy report in 2020. In addition, a doctoral thesis with the working title 'Private sustainability standards and the WTO: A case study from Switzerland' is being prepared.

The team of researchers participated in several outreach activities. The results of the project were presented in the Third Programme Conference organized by the National Research Programme (NRP73) on January 2020, at the workshop International Trade Relations and Sustainability organized by State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) on January 2020, and at an internal workshop organized by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) on February 2020. Prof. Francois represented the research team in the online workshop on Environmental monitoring organized by the NRP 73 on July 2020, where he presented results from the research project. As an initiative of the team of researchers, the World Trade Institute has become a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland. Some research results from the project were presented in the SDSN Assembly that took place on February 2020 in Bern. Also, a research paper was presented in the NOeG Winter workshop 2019 in Vienna (Austria).

Heterogeneity - Regulatory Heterogeneity in International Trade

The past 50 years have seen an unparalleled reduction of tariff barriers to international trade. Positive experiences from seizing the gains of tariff-free trade have shifted the attention to so-called non-tariff measures (NTMs). The potential gains from reducing trade frictions in this area are expected to be very significant, particularly for small and medium-sized companies, which has put NTMs on the modern trade policy agenda.

In contrast to tariffs, trade frictions induced by NTMs are not necessarily caused by border measures per se, but are the result of differences in the types of regulations set by countries. Oftentimes these have a *raison d'être* other than regulating trade, which makes it not only more complex for trade negotiators as a substance matter, but also potentially politically sensitive. Furthermore, regulatory measures may not exist in isolation but are instead dependent on other measures – together forming a 'system' of regulations.

This research project aims to shed some light on heterogeneity and system aspects of NTMs and analyse their impact on international trade flows. Four research questions are guiding the project:

- How can we aggregate NTM data in order to obtain a bilateral indicator that not only reflects the heterogeneity of regulatory 'systems' but also includes aspects of measure interdependencies?
- What is the impact of regulatory heterogeneity on international trade flows?
- Is regulatory heterogeneity (or similarity for that matter) a predictor for the depth of trade agreements?
- How can information on NTM interdependencies and regulatory heterogeneity help us to design trade policy scenarios?

Thus, the first stage of the project is concerned with finding alternative measures of NTMs and improving the way they are aggregated in order to quantify regulatory profiles. In the next few months, a database that comprises different NTM indicators currently applied in the literature at several aggregation levels will be made publicly available. It includes well-established descriptive indicators and more recently developed measures of regulatory distance, as well as identification of NTM patterns via principal component analysis and clustering techniques. These indicators are

PROSPER - Politics of Rule-making, Orchestration of Standards and Private Economic Regulations

PROSPER is a 2-year interdisciplinary project which started in September 2019 and is funded by the European Commission under the European Union Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship Programme. Its objective is to understand how and under which conditions multinational companies (MNCs) can influence rules and standards in the global trade regime.

PROSPER will mainly examine the extent to which MNCs are able to orchestrate political mobilization of their subsidiaries for coordinated lobbying and impose rules and standards upon firms along their supply chains. The theory proposed by the project suggests that firms' globalization strategies and their degree of integration into global production networks significantly affect their ability to be active in shaping global rules and standards.

PROSPER will employ a mixed-method research design using quantitative analysis and in-depth case studies. The project will construct a comprehensive new dataset of MNCs and triangulate the results achieved through statistical analysis via comparative cases studies.

The project is run by Dr Aydin Yildirim and hosted by the WTI.

This project is scheduled to run from 2019-2021 and has a funding of 191,149 Euros.



then used to analyse the impact on trade as well as improve the way we formulate trade policy scenarios in impact assessments. By this, the project participants aim to make contributions to the trade cost literature and advance relatively scarce findings on regulatory heterogeneity and its impact on trade policy outcomes. The work can help inform the debate around 21st century trade agreements.

This project runs from 2018-2022 and has funding of 636,238 Swiss francs.

RESPECT - Realising Europe's soft power in external cooperation and trade

The WTI is a partner in the EU's Horizon 2020 project RESPECT (Realizing Europe's Soft Power in External Cooperation and Trade), which examines the effectiveness of EU trade and investment agreements in achieving external policy objectives, especially as related to environmental, social, and energy security

objectives. The WTI team has focused on the development and analysis of measurements (indicators) of non-trade policy objectives (NTPOs), as well as data on the provisions in trade agreements related to NTPOs. The aim is to provide better guidance on coherence between objectives and the instruments used.

The wide array of different measures and their interaction makes establishing cause and effect relationships particularly challenging. Thus, complementary to the quantitative analysis, case studies and policy-specific analyses are also being used to expand the evidence base on the effectiveness of using trade and investment agreements for achieving NTPOs. The RESPECT project has also provided a framework for organizing sessions and an edited volume for the World Trade Forum. This has been done together with the European University Institute (EUI) and marks one of many areas of cooperation with the EUI.

This project runs from 2018-2021 and the WTI has funding of 396,081 Euros.

BRICS - Globalization and Labor Protections in Advanced and Emerging Economies

The research project investigates under what conditions BRICS trade and especially foreign direct investment (FDI) enhances (or undermines) labour rights, working conditions and protective labour market institutions in Europe, Brazil and China. It is also interested in individual and stakeholders' perceptions of inward FDI in advanced economies.

The project team, directed by Prof. Damian Raess under the Swiss National Science Foundation grant no. PP00P1_163745 (CHF 1,237,618) over the period 2017–2020, was composed of the following members in 2020: Alexandra Eugster (research assistant), Wanlin Ren (PhD candidate); Patrick Wagner (PhD candidate), and Damian Raess.

Raess published his article on senior managers' preferences over inward FDI flows using Swiss survey data. The study, titled 'The Demand-Side Politics of China's Global Buying Spree: Managers' Attitudes toward Chinese Inward FDI Flows in Comparative Perspective' was published in the *Review of International Political Economy* (see <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1778503>).

A collection of essays by twenty-one knowledgeable specialists on how to conquer the dungeon of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development via trade and investment found their way in Raess's co-edited volume (with C. Beverelli and J. Kurtz) *International Trade, Investment, and the Sustainable Development Goals* published with Cambridge University Press (see <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108881364>; Introduction to the volume available in open access).

Raess, Ren and Wagner finalized their study titled "Hidden Strings Attached? Types of Chinese Foreign Aid and International Political Alignment". The paper examines the impact of Chinese aid flows on recipients' voting alignment with China in the UN General Assembly. The paper was submitted for publication and received a Revise & Resubmit.

Ren and Wagner made steady progress toward the completion of their PhD manuscripts, which they expect to submit in early 2021. Ren's thesis is entitled *The Effect of Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment on Labor*

Protections in China. The title of Wagner's thesis is 'Patient Zero: Unintended Consequences and Infectious Upgrading: The Effect of Outward Investment Linkages with Europe on Decent Working Conditions in Brazil'.

A data related collaboration with Brazilian partner DIEESE was launched. DIEESE is the Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies, it is headquartered in São Paulo. Eugster, under the joint supervision of Raess and Wagner, turned the qualitative DIEESE clauses on collective bargaining in Brazil into a dataset for quantitative analysis, using the statistical software R. Eugster, Raess and Wagner presented the methodology and descriptive statistics to Luis Ribeiro and Daniel Ribeiro (DIEESE) during a Zoom meeting on Dec. 11, 2020.

Framing Environmental Degradation, Human Mobility and Human Development as a Matter of Common Concern (CLI_M_CO2)

This research project, which is led by Prof. Elisa Fornalé and is part of an SNS research professorship, approaches international migration in the context of environmental degradation by conceptualising the issue as a 'common concern of humankind'. In order to contextualise its theoretical approach, the project selected the Pacific Island Countries and Territories as a case study. During the year of 2018, the project team carried out fieldwork research in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati and New Zealand. In-depth interviews were held with key stakeholders who are active in the fields of climate change, human mobility and human rights at the international, regional and local levels. The data collected is complementing the analysis of the legal instruments regarding the environment and human mobility, as well as the conceptualisation of the doctrine of common concern of humankind. In addition, Yildiz contributed to the digital archive of environment-related migration cases (geo-archive). Aylin's contribution critically describes the relocation of the Vunidogoloa village – the first climate change-induced community relocation in Fiji.

In 2020, a key output has been Fornalé's book chapter titled 'Environmental Migration Governance at Regional Level'. Jointly with Lavenex and Cristani, it offers insights into the

case study of Latin America to point out how the regional level may become an institutional anchor for a future treaty-based structure of environmental migration governance. Together with a recent publication that conducted an in-depth analysis of the Resolution 'A legal status for 'climate refugees' adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2019. The project team is involved in the review process of the UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As a result, team members have submitted two commentaries on Objective 2, 5 and 18 of the mentioned compact.

Team members have presented at various conferences that focus on sustainable development. Prof. Fornalé as member of the International Law Association Committee on 'International Law and Sea-Level Rise' attended its intermediary meeting in October 2020. Her active participation will inform the final report of the ILA Committee in 2022 and it complement the efforts made by other international initiatives, in particular by the United Nations International Law Commission Study Group on 'Sea Level Rise in International

For more information about projects at the WTI, please visit the Projects section of our website: www.wti.org/research/res

Law' established in 2019 to address issues related to the protection of people affected by sea-level rise. Aylin Yildiz received a scholarship for the 79th Biennial Conference of the International Law Association (ILA), held in December 2020.

In 2020, the major outreach activity was the professional webinar for 30 educators of the Trentino Region (Italy). The webinar featured stories from our fieldwork in the Small Pacific Islands States. The training was a collaboration between ACCRI association within the framework of the project 'Insieme per l'Ambiente. Sensibilizziamo le giovani generazioni sulla giustizia climatica' (Together for the Environment. Attracting Younger Generation to Engage with Climate Justice), funded by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. Our work, the interactive mapping exercise were translated into resources for educators to bring climate migration into the classroom, including teaching materials for introducing young students to this emerging field of study and it is now available for 500 teachers involved in the project. In November 2020, Ms. Yildiz was also invited by the International Law Students Association (Turkish Chamber) to present about the CLI_M_CO2 project.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) funds the project. It runs from 2017-2022 and has funding of 1,333,000 Swiss francs.



Outreach

The WTI Network

The WTI cooperates with leading universities and institutes through memoranda of understanding or collaborative projects, carrying out joint research and teaching programmes. Students pre-selected by our partner universities benefit from a preferential tuition fee for the MILE and TRAIL+ programmes. In 2020, the WTI concluded new agreements with the Institute of Law for Science and Technology, National Tsing Hua University and the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research in Taiwan and the Fudan University Law School in Shanghai, China.

External Training

Besides its graduate programmes, the WTI also organises tailor-made courses and workshops for policy-makers and government officials, as well as courses for students at other universities. Due to the pandemic, planned tailor-made programmes and summer programmes were postponed to 2021, such as the 4-week Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy, which is being organised with the Centre for WTO Studies of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi on an annual base since 2014 and the International Bachelor Summer School for Climate Change Research, which is co-organised by the WTI and the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, University of Bern.

Policy Research

The WTI conducts applied research for a range of public and private institutions in the fields of international trade and investment. WTI

For more information, please visit the Outreach section of our website: www.wti.org/outreach/outreach-activities and www.wti.org/outreach/outreach-activities/advisory-services



The winners of the 2020 edition of the Gujarat Moot Court.

experts are actively engaged in providing opinions and advice on topics such as impact assessment of preferential trade agreements, 'gap analysis' of investment laws and policies, WTO reform and accession. The WTI has carried out a study on the possible consequences of the EFTA-Mercosur free trade agreement for the environment and agriculture, which was commissioned by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). As part of the World Bank's 'Deep Integration' project, the WTI was in charge of the 'Dataset on Labor Market Regulation Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)'. This involved the coding of labour provisions in 271 PTAs notified to the WTO covering the period 1960-2017. The WTI also conducted workshops in the field of WTO dispute settlement and investor-state dispute settlement for members of the Uzbek judiciary, and an introductory course in trade policy for Uzbek trade officials.

Dissemination

The WTI participated in local, national and international policy discussions and debates. The WTI regularly organised brown bag lunch talks as well as lectures in the context of the Global Economic Governance Seminar Series. These online lectures were open to the public and attracted considerable attention. The WTI Gender Team continued the 'Know the GAP' gender lecture series with a focus on gender, equality and diversity. Due to the COVID situation, since March 2020 all these lectures have been organised in an online format and have attracted participants from across Switzerland and the world.



Appellate Body Secretariat Director Dr Werner Zdouc (left) with MILE alumni Pallavi Bajaj and Rishab Raturi.

In April 2020 the WTI has launched the 'Pandemic and the Global Economy: a Virtual Workshop Series'. From April to August 2020 the WTI has organised ten sessions with eminent speakers in panels on topics related to global economic governance and COVID 19. These virtual workshops were well attended and its recordings can be found on the WTI's website. The WTI's SNSF professor Damian Raess provided evidence to both Houses of the UK Parliament on the level playing field in UK-EU trade negotiations.

The WTI's management and researchers have been regularly involved in debates and interviews with Swiss and international media. These articles can be found in the media section of the WTI's website. As in previous years, the WTI co-organised the annual World Trade Forum with the European University Institute in Florence. In 2020 the topic was 'The Future of Trade Policy and External Cooperation: is Soft Power Passé?'

Sponsorship

In 2020, the WTI sponsored two moot court competitions:

- **Gujarat International Moot Court Competition (GIMC)**

The 12th edition of the GIMC competition took place at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in India from 12–16 February 2020. More than fifty teams from Indian and international law schools participated. The prize winners received a full tuition scholarship to the WTI Summer Academy. As in previous years, several alumni, Ms Stuti Toshi (MILE 17), Mr Harsh Gursahani (MILE 11) and Ms Pallavi Bajaj (MILE 10), represented the WTI in various rounds as panellists. MILE 15 alumnus Rishab Raturi had co-authored the moot problem.

- **John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly EMC²)**

The winning teams of the regional round and final oral round were awarded scholarships to the WTI Summer or Winter Academy. The best orator at the final oral round was awarded a full tuition scholarship for the TRAIL+ (LLM) programme at the WTI. MILE 19 alumna Akshata Limaye coached the winning team from the Government Law College Mumbai.

Faculty Global Economic Governance Seminar Series and Talking Gender, Equality, and Diversity Lecture Series

- Thomas Bernauer, Professor of Political Science, ETH Zurich
- Zsuzsa Blaskó, Research Fellow, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Umberto Cattaneo, Economist, Gender, Equality and Diversity and ILOAIDS Branch, International Labour Organization
- Chenai Chair, Research Manager, Gender and Digital Rights, World Wide Web Foundation
- Chern-Chyi Chen, Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs
- Catherine D'Ignazio, Assistant Professor of Urban Science & Planning Director of the Data + Feminism Lab, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Victor do Prado, Director, Council and TNC Division, World Trade Organization
- Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Research Associate FNRS, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Mara Catherine Harvey, Head of Client Services, Global Wealth Management, UBS / Founder Smartwaytostart.com
- Aisha Jagirani, Director General, Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs, Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization
- Lauren Klein, Associate Professor Department of English and Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods, Emory University
- Sandra Mantu, Assistant Professor, Centre for Migration Law, Radboud University
- Gabrielle Marceau, Senior Counsellor, WTO Secretariat, and Associate Professor, University of Geneva
- Alessandra Minello, Assistant Professor in Demography, University of Florence
- Nora Neufeld, Secretary of the Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation, World Trade Organization
- Emanuela Pozzan, Senior Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Specialist, Gender, Equality and Diversity and ILOAIDS, International Labour Organization
- Annalisa Rosselli, Professor of History of Economic Thought, University of Rome
- Patricia Schulz, Former Director of the Federal Office for Gender Equality and Swiss Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2011–2018)
- Laurens Thuy, Gender and Communication Consultant, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme

On the top: Five of the new students were able to attend the induction days on site while the remaining students joined in online.

Prof. Peter Van den Bossche acted as member of the panel judging the finals of the Russian National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition on 1 February 2020.

Events

In addition to Brown Bag seminars, doctoral colloquia, workshops and conferences in the first quarter of the year, the WTI hosted or took part in numerous online events in 2020.

The 'Know the GAP' Gender lectures, organised by the WTI's Gender Team, continued to shed light on topics related to gender equality. Speakers included Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Mara Catherine Harvey, Sandra Mantu, Emanuela Pozzan, Umberto Cattaneo, Laurens Thuy, Patricia Schulz, Zsuzsa Blaskó, Alessandra Minello, Annalisa Rosselli, Catherine D'Ignazio, Lauren Klein, Chenai Chair and Aisha Jagirani. The recorded lectures are available as podcasts on our website.

The WTI continued its Global Economic Governance (GEG) Seminar Series in 2020. Some of the seminars were held on site, while others had to switch to an online format due to the pandemic. Speakers included WTI Advisory Board members Thomas Bernauer, Victor do Prado, Gabrielle Marceau and External Faculty member Nora Neufeld. Of special mention is the GEG seminar by Chern-Chyi Chen, Taiwan's Deputy-Minister of Economic Affairs, who addressed Taiwan's history in the Multilateral Trading System and Global Economy trends and challenges, which might emerge in a Post Covid-19 world. He talked about a new emphasis on supply chain resilience, tech-driven policies as well as Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG). The purpose



of these seminars is to allow students and interested public to benefit from the insights and personal experience of the experts invited, and to engage in discussions with the experts as well as among themselves on the aspects of global economic governance addressed.

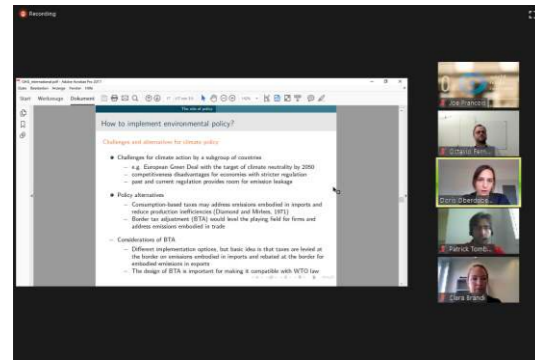
In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, the WTI organised an online workshop titled 'Pandemic and the Global Economy: A Virtual Workshop Series'. This workshop aimed at examining issues and challenges raised by recent experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. It consisted of a total of ten sessions, which can be found on our website as podcasts.

In January 2020, WTI Director of Studies Prof. Peter Van den Bossche conducted the first two sessions of his 25-hour seminar as a visiting lecturer on WTO law at the College of Europe on 9 and 10 January. Later, on 13 January, he gave two lectures on the 'Crisis of the Multilateral Trading System' and the 'Basic Rules on Trade in Goods', in the context of the Master of European and International Governance (MEIG) programme at the University of Geneva.

From 22 to 24 January 2020, he participated in the 21st EIPIN congress, hosted by Maastricht University, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Maastricht, the Netherlands. On the final day of the congress Van den Bossche spoke on '25 Years of TRIPS and the Role of the WTO Dispute Settlement System'. The European IP Institutes Network Innovation Society (EIPIN-Innovation Society) is a Horizon 2020 project funded by the EU that examines the role of intellectual property as a complex adaptive system in innovation.



Prof. Joseph Francois, Doris Oberdabernig, Patrick Tomberger and Dr. Clara Brandi discussed the challenges and alternatives of climate policy.



On 28 January 2020, Prof. Van den Bossche conducted a seminar and gave a public lecture on 'WTO Dispute Settlement: Resetting the Jewel in the Crown?' at the London School of Economics (LSE) in the context of Dr Stephen Woolcock's course on Economic Diplomacy. From London he went to Moscow, where he was a member of the panel judging the finals of the Russian National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition on 1 February 2020.

On 27 February 2020, Prof. Van den Bossche delivered a two-hour lecture at the School of Law of the University of Edinburgh on 'WTO Dispute Settlement in 2020: the End of a Unique Experiment with the Rule of Law?'. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on 'The World Trade Organization: Risks, Opportunities and Options for the Future', organized by the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law and the Law Society of Scotland. The roundtable discussion, chaired by Carolyn Thurston Smith, also included other speakers such as Ignacio Garcia Bercero from the European Commission and St. Anthony's College (Oxford) and Martin Bell from the Scottish Whisky Association.



Class representatives Esha Sandhu (left) from India and Marianna Henud Cresci (right) from Brazil.



WTI Managing Director Joseph Francois delivering the closing remarks at the Closing Ceremony of 2020-21.

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 Ignacio Garcia Bercero, European Commission and St Anthony's College, Oxford
 Prof. Dr. Peter van den Bossche, World Trade Institute, University of Berne
 former WTO Assistant Secretary General and Chairman
 Martin Bell, Scottish Whisky Association
 Chair: Carolyn Thurston Smith, Law Society of Scotland



Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, during the World Trade Forum 2020.



Class picture in the time of a global pandemic: The class of 2020-21 with WTI Staff members.

On 24 July 2020, the Closing Ceremony of the 2019-2020 Advanced Master's Programmes took place on the premises of the WTI. The ceremony was organised in a way that hygiene and distancing rules could be applied at all times. Prof. Peter Van den Bossche, WTI Director of Studies, made the opening remarks, which were followed by a keynote address delivered by Prof. Emeritus Thomas Cottier, former WTI Managing Director. His speech was titled, 'Some Reflections on the Multilateral Trading System in a Multipolar World'. The Thomas Cottier Award for Best Thesis was presented to MILE 19 alumna Yuliia Kucheriava from Ukraine, who was connected live to the ceremony via Zoom. The title of her thesis is 'Anti-Circumvention Practices: Balanced Approach to Address Loopholes in Anti-Dumping Agreement' and was supervised by Edwin Vermulst. The award is presented annually to one MILE or TRAIL+ student for the best thesis submitted. Per tradition, this year's class representatives, Marianna Henud Cresci from Brazil and Esha Sandhu from India, gave a creative farewell speech to their fellow classmates. Right after

the speech, the students were presented with their MILE stones. The ceremony was live-streamed and was followed by a COVID-19 conform Farewell Lunch at the Restaurant Rosengarten for students and WTI staff members.

On 9 September 2020, the 2020-21 class of MILE and TRAIL+ students were officially welcomed by the WTI. The new students come from China, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. Five of the new students were able to attend the induction days on site while the remaining students joined in online. Prof. Emeritus Giorgio Sacerdoti from Bocconi University delivered a keynote speech on 'WTO post COVID-19: What Challenges for the Multilateral Trading System?'.
 In 2020, the annual World Trade Forum, jointly organised by the WTI, the European University Institute (EUI) and the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), was held online for the first time since its launch. This yearly gathering brings together trade experts and policy makers to discuss a particular topic in international trade. The theme of the 2020 World Trade Forum was 'The Future of Trade Policy and External Cooperation: is Soft Power Passé?'.

For a full list of our events in 2019, please visit our website:
www.wti.org/outreach/events

Alumni



As of 2020, the WTI alumni and student body comprised 582 current and former students from 106 countries, including the 21 enrolled in the MILE 21 / TRAIL+4 programme. Many MILE alumni have launched highly successful careers following graduation – often starting with an internship at an international organisation in Geneva. Around 20% of our MILE and TRAIL+ alumni work for international organisations (e.g. WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, ACWL, UNECE). Approximately 25% are employed by their respective governments (frequently in trade, foreign or economic ministries). Roughly 40% work in the private sector (e.g. Deloitte, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Credit Suisse, Mastercard), for international law firms (Hausfeld, White & Case, Baker McKenzie, Van Bael & Bellis, etc.), or as independent consultants. Some 5% are employed by non-governmental organisations (e.g. WWF, Avenir Suisse, CUTS International) and associations (e.g. Eurometaux, CELCAA), and a further 10% of graduates pursue an academic career.

For more information about our Alumni, including recent interviews, please visit our website: www.wti.org/institute/alumni

The WTI takes pride in the careers of its alumni and endeavours to maintain close relations with them through communications work and event organisation. In the past years, several alumni networking meetings have taken place in different parts of the world. Many alumni represented the WTI in international trade law moot court competitions as panellists (such as the John H. Jackson Moot Court and the Gujarat International Moot Court).

Since 2015, the WTI is organising a mentoring programme in which alumni support current students. By the end of 2020, sixty mentoring groups were formed within the WTI's mentoring project in the past five years. The mentoring programme is seen as a core element of the WTI's alumni strategy, as it links current students with alumni on a thematic or regional basis. The underlying idea is to support students to establish themselves professionally with the help of the WTI alumni network. Both mentors and mentees have given very positive feedbacks.

As in previous years, WTI master students were able to pursue an internship upon completion of their studies with the financial support of several third-party scholarship funds. Lisa Ningombam was the winner of the John H. Jackson Scholarship in 2020. This allowed her to pursue her internship at Sidera Consult. Swati Sharma was awarded the Thomas Cottier Scholarship, which enabled her to do an internship at VVGB's International Trade Department. Nikhita Pais received the Luzius Wasescha Scholarship, which enabled her to pursue an internship with Sidera Consult. The Thomas Cottier Award for the Best Thesis went to Yuliia Kucheriava for her Master thesis 'Anti-Circumvention Practices: Balanced Approach to Address Loopholes in Anti-Dumping Agreement'.

In December 2020, the election of a Founding Working Committee for the formation of a WTI Alumni Association (WTIAA) took place. Five alumni were elected by the WTI's body of alumni. The WTIAA is set to be operational in 2021 and is foreseen as a platform for cooperation, exchange, networking and events, supporting alumni, students and the WTI alike.

Financials

Financial account for 2020 (in CHF, rounded)

INCOME	
External funds	
Programme income	1,521,000
Other income (services)	364,000
Total external funds	1,885,000
University funds	
Contributions to office rent ¹	0
Contributions to personnel expenditure	1,408,000
Contributions to operating expenses	217,000
Total university funds	1,625,000
Total Income	3,510,000

EXPENDITURE	
Personnel	
Salaries	2,455,000
Social benefits	492,000
Total personnel	2,947,000
Other Expenditure	
Office rent ¹	0
Office operating expenses	261,000
Travel	13,000
Miscellaneous	+24,000
Total other expenditure	298,000
Accruals	+265,000
Total Expenditure	3,510,000

The WTI is constituted as a centre of competence within the University of Bern, and the financial accounts are audited internally and externally. For accounting purposes, the University of Bern applies the accounting standard Swiss GAAP FER. A full overview, including the most recent financial positions, is available as part of the University's annual report.

¹ Paid directly by the university administration.

