

## Why this Network?

In the past decade, issues of international trade have become increasingly contentious in the EU and its Member States, with tens of thousands protesting against major trade deals.

In the light of these developments, it has become important, for scholars and policy-makers alike, to understand the politics – and not just the policy – of international trade agreements.

What is driving these reactions? Why are some trade agreements reviled, and others ignored? What are the politics of trade?

Our Network of researchers is here to answer these questions.



The Jean Monnet Network brings together scholars from five universities, located on both sides of the Atlantic.



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## Politicization of Trade Relations



## Jean Monnet Network on Transatlantic Trade Politics

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# Politicization of Trade Relations

Why are some trade agreements politically contested, but not others? What determines whether or not an initiative is politicized? And what happens once a trade initiative becomes contentious?

Within the Jean Monnet Network on Transatlantic Trade Politics, these kinds of questions – which are at the heart of our Network’s mandate — are examined in the module on *The Politicization of Trade Relations*.

This module seeks to identify the indicators that best measure the politicization of trade agreements, and understand what factors prove relevant to explaining the variation between cases. For instance:

- ◆ Why did protests prevent a trade deal between the United States and the European Union, but largely ignore a deal between the EU and Japan?
- ◆ How did the EU-Canada deal survive these protests?

As well, research in this module will help understand under which circumstances politicization affects trade policy.

These new understandings provide important conceptual foundations for our other modules, and for researchers and analysts outside the Network.

## Upcoming Workshops

The module will organize two workshops on the topic of “Reacting to the Contestation of Trade Policy in the Transatlantic Area” in Fall 2021 (Antwerp) and Spring 2022 (Salzburg).

These workshops will seek answers to questions such as:

- ◆ Do governments respond to contestation by making trade policy more transparent or through policy change?
- ◆ Do business actors show a greater reliance on outside lobbying when trade policy is contested, or do they retreat?
- ◆ In the EU, do member state governments react by defending EU trade policy or by blaming the EU?

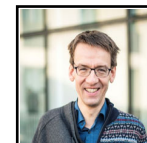
The aim is to find explanations of how and why different actors react to the contestation of trade policy. Understanding these reactions is important to anticipate future trade policy choices. Trade policy, in turn, has major consequences for citizens, making this research of broad public interest. The results from these workshops will be published in a special issue of a journal.

## Module Co-Leaders



### Andreas Dür

Andreas Dür is Professor at Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. His research focuses on trade policy, interest group politics, and European integration. He has published approximately 50 peer-reviewed articles on these topics, and since 2017 has served as principal investigator of the TRADEPOWER project, financed by a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council. Before taking up the position in Salzburg, he was research fellow at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (2003-05) and lecturer at University College Dublin (2005-09).



### Dirk De Bièvre

Dirk De Bièvre is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at University of Antwerp. His research focuses on regulatory and judicial politics, interest group politics, and political economy in the EU and the World Trade Organization, and has been funded by the Volkswagen-Stiftung. In addition to his role as Co-Leader of this module, he is a member of the steering group of the ECPR Standing Group on International Relations, and member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of European Public Policy* and *Politics and Governance*.

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