

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.

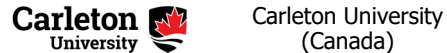
In the light of these developments, it has become important, for scholars and policy-makers alike, to understand the politics – and not just the policy – of international trade agreements.

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.



The European Commission's support for the Jean Monnet Network on Transatlantic Trade Politics does not constitute an endorsement of the content it creates, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Centre for European Studies
Carleton University
1125 Colonel By Drive, K1S 5B6
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Website: www.carleton.ca/tradenetwork
Phone: 613-520-2600 x1087
E-mail: ces@carleton.ca



Trade Policy and Climate Change



Jean Monnet Network on Transatlantic Trade Politics

Hosted by the Centre for European Studies, Carleton University

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Trade Policy and Climate Change

Trade policy is linked to environmental and climate change policy in various ways. The idea that trade liberalization could negatively affect the environment has gained popularity in public discourse. Environmental groups, but also labour unions and parts of academia, have voiced concerns that trade liberalization, without specific safeguards in place, could induce a race to the bottom with regard to environmental standards.

Proponents of trade liberalization argue that the opposite might occur. Trade liberalization could produce trading-up effects, generating incentives for less strongly regulated markets to tighten their environmental standards. Disputes over these dynamics come into play both during the negotiation of trade agreements as well as during their implementation and application.

Within the Jean Monnet Network on Transatlantic Trade Politics, these disputes are examined in the module on *Trade Policy and Climate Change*. It seeks to examine the role of environmental concerns in both the negotiation of trade agreements and the reaction by citizens to these initiatives.

Topics examined in the module include the EU's ambition to integrate the European Green Deal into EU trade policy (for instance through the mechanism of carbon border adjustments) as well as attempts by the new US administration to advance climate change in its trade policy, including the impact of these policies on Canada and Mexico.

Module Events

Online workshop series on Transatlantic Trade Policy, Environmental Issues, and Climate Change

- ◆ October 5, 2021: The impact of domestic environmental and climate policies on cross-border competitiveness and trade agreements (11:30-13:00 p.m. EST)
- ◆ October 12, 2021: The World Trade Organization (WTO) and dispute settlement: Is there a clash between environmental and trade law? (10:30-12:00 EST)
- ◆ October 19, 2021: The role of political activism: addressing concerns about trade agreements and environmental resilience/sustainability (11:30-13:00 EST)

Recent Publications

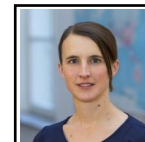
- ◆ Lisa Lechner and Gabriele Spilker. 2021. Taking it Seriously: Commitments to the Environment in South-South Preferential Trade Agreements. Forthcoming in *Environmental Politics*.
- ◆ Gabriele Spilker, Quynh Nguyen and Thomas Bernauer. 2020. Trading Arguments: Opinion Updating in the Context of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). *International Studies Quarterly* 64(4): 929-938.

Module Co-leaders



Joan DeBardleben

Joan DeBardleben is Chancellor's Professor of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies and of Political Science at Carleton University. She is also Co-Director of the Centre for European Studies, and Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-Canada Relations. Her research focuses on EU-Russian relations, particularly as they are affected by the Ukraine crisis. She also conducts research on Russian domestic politics, with a focus on elections, and is editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Journal of European and Russian Studies*.



Gabriele Spilker

Gabriele Spilker is Professor of International Politics–Global Inequality at the University of Konstanz. Her research focuses on international political economy, international cooperation, globalization, and environmental politics. She has experience in collaborating in and leading international projects, serving as deputy director of the Swiss National Centre for Competence in Research "Trade Regulation" (which coordinates research on international trade between economists, lawyers, and political scientists) from 2015 to 2017.

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