

# **Observing Trade:**

## **Revealing International Trade Networks and Their Impacts**

**March 9-11, 2006**  
**Princeton University**

Hosted by:  
**Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies**



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**The Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs**  
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### **Organized by:**

Miguel Centeno, Princeton University  
Sara R. Curran, University of Washington  
**&**

**Growing Knowledge about Globalization**  
A Collaborative Research and Education Initiative  
Established by Princeton University, the University of Washington  
and the University of Technology, Sydney

## CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Before we can effectively debate whether globalization is good or bad, make informed policy recommendations and decisions, or even understand what drives globalization, we must know what globalization is and what it looks like. To do this, we must step back from armchair theorizing and debating and return to the careful, scholarly work of examining empirical data. The “Growing Knowledge about Globalization” project proposes to examine global transactions data. Although international trade is not the only kind of transaction that reveals globalization, it is a key one. Economic development is often tied to trade, which is one of the most frequently discussed topics among heads of state and international organizations; indeed, it has become a focal point of many protests against globalization. Understanding the “nitty-gritty” of trade and production networks as well as the patterns or structure that these networks form is an essential first step toward understanding globalization.

International trade data are huge and complex. People use international trade data for a wide variety of purposes. The *Observing Trade* conference will bring researchers together to share their uses of trade data. It seeks to break new ground in the analysis and interpretation of trade data and related issues; the participants will examine how we conceptualize and measure trade, explore underlying constraints of trade patterns, and investigate certain instructive, specific case studies to illuminate influences on and impacts of trade patterns.

The first day of the conference will include three sessions that deal with the methodological and theoretical aspects of international trade networks. The first session will explore different ways to conceptualize, analyze, and display trade networks. The next session will examine key issues in measuring trade and the limitations of the available trade data. To understand the structure of the transaction networks, it is necessary to know the underlying constraints; accordingly, the first day’s final session will examine global logistics.

The second day of the conference will feature three sessions of case studies framed by different forms of trade governance. In the first session, trade regimes that are largely managed inside firms and other economic organizations will be discussed. The second session will analyze cases in which trade regimes have been partly shaped by social movements and political concerns. The second day’s final session will present cases of bilateral and multilateral international regimes.

The third and final day of the conference will be centered around a workshop that will allow the participants to explore the capabilities of the NetMap Visualizer software that is used by the “Growing Knowledge about Globalization” project.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 9, 2006

### **METHODOLOGY AND THEORY**

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| 12:30pm-1:30pm | Lunch for Invited Participants  |  |
| 1:00-1:30pm    | Welcome and Introductions   | Miguel A. Centeno and Sara R. Curran   |
|                |   |  |
| 1:30pm-4:00pm  | Conceptualization and Analyzing Global Trade  | During this session four different papers will be given that offer ways in which to present or visualize global trade structures. These perspectives include networks, pattern approach, commodity chains, trade data archeology, and material flow analyses.  |
|                |   |  |
| 4:30pm-5:30pm  | Measuring and Data Limitations  | In a short session, experts on the collection, compilation, and reporting of trade data will briefly discuss the current possibilities and limitations. Participants will be invited to join the discussion, offering their own perspectives based on their research on commodities or trade governance. |
|                |   |  |
| 5:30pm-6:30pm  | Logistics: Underlying Constraints for Trade   | In this session we will explore the physical and legal constraints to moving commodities. Experts will discuss how varying physical and legal infrastructures can result in different flows of commodities.  |
|                |   |  |
| 6:30pm-7:45pm  | Reception for Invited Participants  |  |
|                |   |  |
| 8:00pm-9:30pm  | Keynote Address and Discussion:<br>“International trade and offshore production: How can we use international trade analysis to explore new trends in the global labor market?” | Gary Gereffi, Duke University  |

Friday, March 10, 2006

**GOVERNING TRADE: Commodities and Case Studies**

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 8:00am – 8:30am | Coffee   |  |
| 8:30am-10:00am  | Trade Regulated within the Private Sector      | Papers in this session will cover cases where the private sector, either corporations or associations of producers, exporters, importers, and traders, have driven trade in particular commodities. E.g, papers might include analyses of multinational vertical integration, multi-sector associations (fibers/retail), or corporate influence on production and outsourcing. |
|                 |  |  |
| 10:30am-12:30pm | Trade Governed by Civil Society                | In this session, papers will explore commodities that have been the target of social movements and how this has affected trade in these commodities.   |
|                 |  |  |
| 12:30-2:00pm    | Lunch for Invited Participants                 |  |
|                 |  |  |
| 2:00pm-4:00pm   | Trade Governed by Formal Regulatory Regimes    | During this session, papers will cover cases of trade flows governed by formal regulatory regimes, e.g. national governmental trade policies or the WTO. Papers might examine topics such as import protection or organizing demand-responsive economies.  |
|                 |  |  |
| 6:30pm-8:30pm   | Dinner and Discussion for Invited Participants |  |

Saturday, March 11, 2006

**EXPLORING TRADE DATA: Using NetMap to Investigate the Data**

|                     |                                   |   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 9:00am – 9:30am     | Coffee                            |   |
| 9:30am-10:30am      | NetMap Visualizer<br>Introduction | This session will introduce NetMap Visualizer as a tool to investigate structures of large relational datasets.   |
|                     |                                   |   |
| 10:45am-<br>12:45pm | Interactive Data Analysis         | This session will examine several questions about globalization and introduce analysis approaches through NetMap Visualizer. Time will also be allowed for conference participants to query the trade data to investigate their own research questions. |

## PRESENTERS

### **DAY 1: METHODOLOGY AND THEORY**

#### ***Conceptualizing and Analyzing Global Trade***

Gary Hamilton (Univ. of Washington)

Paulette Lloyd & John Galloway (Princeton Univ. & Univ. of Technology, Sydney)

Daniel Müller (Center for Industrial Ecology, Yale Univ.)

Valentino Piana (Economics Web Institute)

Timothy Sturgeon (MIT)

#### ***Measurement and Data Limitations***

Bobray Bordelon (Princeton University Library)

Ronald Jansen (United Nations, International Trade Statistics Section) [Unable to attend]

Scudder Smith (EIS, Inc.)

#### ***Logistics: Underlying Constraints for Trade***

Richard Appelbaum (UC Santa Barbara)

Jess Browning (Univ. of Washington, *emeritus*)

#### ***Keynote address***

Gary Gereffi (Duke Univ.)

### **DAY 2: GOVERNING TRADE – Commodities and Case Studies**

#### ***Trade Regulated within the Private Sector***

Seishi Kimura (Fukushima Univ.)

Nelson Lichtenstein (UC Santa Barbara) [Unable to attend]

David Weil (Boston Univ. School of Management and Harvard Univ. Kennedy School)

#### ***Trade Governed by Civil Society***

April Linton (UC San Diego)

Pete W. Moore (Case Western Reserve Univ.)

#### ***Trade Governed by Formal Regulatory Regimes***

Will Milberg (New School Univ.)

Andrew Schrank (Univ. of New Mexico)

Carol Wise (Univ. Southern California and Woodrow Wilson Center, DC)

### **Day 3: EXPLORING TRADE DATA: Using NetMap to Investigate the Data**

#### ***Introduction***

John Galloway (Univ. of Technology, Sydney)

#### ***Interactive Data Analysis***

Miguel Centeno (Princeton Univ.)

Sara R. Curran (Univ. of Washington)

Abigail Cooke (Princeton Univ.)