Catching up and global value chains in times of transformation - Final CatChain Symposium

19-20 February 2024, Maastricht, NL



19 February 2024



Word of Welcome

by Prof. Bartel Van de Walle, Director of UNU MERIT

Session 1 (13h30-15h00)

GVCs and technology

Jahan Ara Peerally (HEC Montreal): Upgrading-by-engaging in GVCs: Deeper insights from machine learning tools

Isabel Maria Bodas Freitas (Grenoble Ecole de Management): Industry participation in the global value chain and foreign technology licensing in developing and transition economies

Katherine Stapleton (World Bank) Global Diffusion of Disruptive Technologies: Understanding the Role of Multinational Firms and Global Value Chains

Lorenzo Cresti (Enrico Fermi Research Center): Investigating automotive in Europe: Input-Output analysis and economic fitness and complexity



Keynote Speech: Jorge Katz (University of Chile)

"Quo Vadis Latin America? ´Isles of modernity´, poverty and social exclusion: The two faces of contemporary Latin American capitalism"

Comments by Luc Soete (UNU MERIT)



Coffee break (16h30-16h45)















19 February 2024

Session 2A (16h45-18h15)

GVCs, Specialization and Diversification

Miguel Angel Santos (Escuela de Gobierno y Transformacion Publica, Tecnologico de Monterrey): Value chain vs. skill-based: Dead ends and steppingstones to productive diversification

Samuel Rosenow (International Finance Corporation IFC): Turning risks into rewards and resilience: Diversifying the global value chains of decarbonization technologies

Boram Lee (Korea Institute for International Economic Policy): Diversification, Specialization, or Dynamic specialization: Revisiting the linkage from international trade to economic growth

Ioanna Kastelli (National Technical University of Athens): Global Value Chains participation and export sophistication of european food sectors

Session 2B (16h45-18h15)

GVC and Green Industrial Policies

Danilo Spinola (Brimingham City University): Is Global Value Chains integration a springboard to development? Conditions, opportunities, and threats of higher GVC integration on technology upgrading in emerging countries

Federico Riccio (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna): Co2 Anatomy: GVCs participation, structural change and sustainability

Roberto Mavilia (Bocconi University): How do green science parks foster tentative firms in the integration into green GVCs?

Amir Lebdioui (University of Oxford): Multilateral dimensions of industrial policy: Regional level thinking in the era of green structural transformations

Networking dinner (19h00)

















20 February 2024

Registration (8h30-9h00)

Boschstraat 24 6211 AX Maastricht



Welcome & Coffee (8h30-9h00)

Session 3 (9h00-10h30)

GVCs & Green Window of Opportunity

Rasmus Lema (UNU MERIT): Green Tech Global Value Chains: Are there windows of opportunity for developing countries?

Vittoria Scalera (Amsterdam Business School, University of Amsterdam): A case of reverse catching up? On the emergence of China as powerhouse in green energy vehicles

Jorge Valverde Carbonell (UNU MERIT): Green Window of Opportunity, Global Value Chains and Critical Minerals: An Empirical Assessment for Refining Copper and Lithium Industries

Roberta Rabellotti (University of Pavia): Green FDI and technological spillovers in the host economies



Coffee break (10h30-11h00)

Session 4A (11h00-12h30)

GVCs and innovation

Andrea Carrera (Institute for international Studies, Complutense University of Madrid): Space-black is the new green: Europe and India's GVC in laser technologies against space debris

Jeffrey Orozco (CINPE-UNA Costa Rica): Innovation and catch up in pineapple production in Costa Rica: contributions from the global value chain and STI system

Katherin Pinzon (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): Effects of National Innovation Systems on the insertion in Global Value Chains of High Technology Intensity Industries: An Analysis of the Aeronautical Industry in Ibero-America.

Yannis Caloghirou (National Technical University of Athens): Global Value Chains, Intangible Inputs, and Manufacturing Innovation in the EU and the UK

Session 4B (11h00-12h30)

GVCs, Knowledge & Structural Change

Roberto Mavilia (Bocconi University): Green Industrial Policies: North vs South comparative analysis

Antonio Andreoni (SOAS University of London): Seizing and Shaping: Opportunities for sustainable structural transformation in Morocco and South Africa

Federico Colozza (Roma Tre University): Do Global Value Chains spread knowledge and pollution? Evidence from EU regions

Petros Dimas (National Technical University of Athens): Putting Intangible Inputs and GVCs into work: New Sources of Comparative Advantage in International Markets















20 February 2024

Keynote Speech: Bart Verspagen (UNU MERIT)

"The state of global sustainable development: an interpretation of trade in global value chains"

Comments by Maria Savona (LUISS, Rome and SPRU, Sussex)

Session 5A (14h30-16h00) Critical Minerals

Clovis Freire Junior (UNCTAD): Diversification in critical minerals value chains: An economic complexity perspective

Carlo Pietrobelli (UNU MERIT and Roma Tre University): Avenues to maximizing value added from critical minerals

Beatriz Calzada Olvera (Erasmus University Rotterdam - IHS): Financing the energy transition: Investments in the lithium industry in Latin America

Session 5B(14h30-16h00) GVC and Green Technologies

Filippo Bontadini (LUISS, Rome): Nearshoring, global value chains structure and volatility Olman Segura (UNA Costa Rica): The twin transition: from smart cities to smart and sustainable cities

Mammo Muchie (Tshwane University of Technology): Catching–Up along the Energy generation Value Chains using different resource– The case of the Green Energy Sector in South Africa

Robert Bwana (University of Amsterdam): Catching up the role of technology in green extractive global value chains: An exploration of digital monitoring platforms for a just transition



Coffee break (16h00-16h30)

Session 6 (16h30-18h00)

GVCs & Innovation

Mercedes Menendez (UNU MERIT): Latin America network knowledge under green and digital transition

Nick Vonortas (The George Washington University): Firm-level determinants of Ecoinnovation strategies in Colombia

Valentina Mallamaci (Bocconi University): Emerging Economies and the Twin Transition: Navigating green and digital shifts in Global Value Chains

Closing remarks (18h00-18h30)

Final thoughts from the Conference (Altenburg, Giuliani), from the Catchain project (Malerba, Segura), from the convenors (Lema, Pietrobelli)

Reception (19h00)













