

Globalization, Regional development, and Firm Strategies

Instructor: Ker-hsuan Chien

Course description

This course mainly focuses on the studies of global value chains, which include the activities that firms, the states, and international organizations carry out to bring products or services to their end uses. This course aims to introduce the critical literatures in value chain studies, which delineate the shifting relationships between firms under the changing contour of global industries. The first part of the course will be given as lectures. Students are expected to read the assigned materials beforehand, and engage in the class discussion. In the second part of the course, students will be divided into groups, and lead the discussion of the value chains in different industries.

Evaluation

- **Class participation 20%:** All students are required to engage with the class discussion for at least 5 times.
- **Research notes 60%:** Students are required to write research notes of 6 papers from the assigned materials, and upload to the eclass platform one day before the class.
- **Group presentation 20%:** The group report requires students to make a formal class presentation on the assigned topics, and lead the class discussion.

Use of the AI: Unrestricted use with no disclosure required

Lecture Schedule

Week 1 Introduction: From the world system to the global value chains (2/19)

Part I Introducing the Value Chain Studies

Week 2 Theorizing the global commodity chains (2/26)

- Gereffi, G. (1999). International trade and industrial upgrading in the apparel commodity chain. *Journal of international economics*, 48(1), 37-70.

Week 3 Theorizing the global value chains (3/4)

- GEREFFI, G., HUMPHREY, J. & STURGEON, T. 2005. The governance of global value chains. *Review of International Political Economy*, 12, 78-104.

Week 4 Global production networks (3/11)

- Henderson, J., Dicken, P., Hess, M., Coe, N., & Yeung, H. W. C. (2002). Global production networks and the analysis of economic development. *Review of international political economy*, 9(3), 436-464.

Week 5 Economic upgrading in the global value chains (3/18)

- Blažek, J. (2016). Towards a typology of repositioning strategies of GVC/GPN suppliers: the case of functional upgrading and downgrading. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 16(4), 849-869.

Week 6 Clusters in the global value chains (3/25)

- Sturgeon, T. J. (2003). What really goes on in Silicon Valley? Spatial clustering and dispersal in modular production networks. *Journal of economic geography*, 3(2), 199-225.

Week 7 The state roles in the global value chains (4/1)

- HORNER, R. 2017. Beyond facilitator? State roles in global value chains and global production networks. *Geography Compass*, 11.

Week 8 Environmental upgrading and downgrading (4/8)

- Krishnan, A., De Marchi, V., & Ponte, S. (2023). Environmental upgrading and downgrading in global value chains: A framework for analysis. *Economic Geography*, 99(1), 25-50.

Week 9 Standards in production (4/15)

- Ouma, S. (2010). Global standards, local realities: private agrifood governance and the restructuring of the Kenyan horticulture industry. *Economic geography*, 86(2), 197-222.

Week 10 Firm-level strategy and global value chains (4/22)

- Sako, M., & Zylberberg, E. (2019). Firm-level strategy and global value chains. In *Handbook on global value chains*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Part II Mapping Global Industries

Week 11 Export-oriented blue jeans industry (4/29)

- Bair, J., & Gereffi, G. (2001). Local clusters in global chains: the causes and consequences of export dynamism in Torreon's blue jeans industry. *World development*, 29(11), 1885-1903.

Week 12 The global semiconductor production networks (5/6)

- C Yeung, H. W. C. (2022). Explaining Geographic Shifts of Chip Making toward East Asia and Market Dynamics in Semiconductor Global Production Networks. *Economic Geography*, 1-27.

Week 13 The state roles in the pharmaceutical industry (5/13)

- Horner, R. (2014). Strategic decoupling, recoupling and global production networks: India's pharmaceutical industry. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 14(6), 1117-1140.

Week 14 Clusters and the automobile production networks (5/20)

- Sturgeon, T., Van Biesebroeck, J., & Gereffi, G. (2008). Value chains, networks and clusters: reframing the global automotive industry. *Journal of economic geography*, 8(3), 297-321.

Week 15 The offshore wind power sector (5/27)

- Dawley, S., MacKinnon, D., & Pollock, R. (2019). Creating strategic couplings in global production networks: regional institutions and lead firm investment in the Humber region, UK. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 19(4), 853-872.

Week 16 Global financial network (6/3)

- Wójcik, D., Keenan, L., Pažitka, V., Urban, M., & Wu, W. (2022). The changing landscape of international financial centers in the twenty-first century: Cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the global financial network. *Economic Geography*, 98(2), 97-118.