

**Seminar (“Research Module”)  
in International Economics**

**“TTIP, TiSA, TPP, Doha etc. –  
Understanding Current Trade Negotiations”**

**Winter Semester 2015/16**

**Motivation:**

Debates about international trade agreements are making the headlines these days: while the planned “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)” is hotly debated on both sides of the Atlantic, the “Trans-Pacific Partnership” (TPP) is no less controversial in the United States. Meanwhile, attempts to liberalize trade at a global scale – the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) or the Doha Round – are simmering on.

Given the recent prominence of trade policy, this research module aims at answering the following questions:

- What are the tools of trade policy, and how do these tools affect trade flows, income levels, and welfare?
- Are regional trade agreements beneficial – and if so, for whom?
- What are the specific goals and components of current trade negotiations (TTIP, TiSA, TPP, Doha etc.). What are their potential effects? How far are these negotiations away from completion? What are the arguments brought forward by their critics?

A detailed list of topics including some first references will be presented at the start of the seminar. Some of these topics will have a theoretical/analytical focus, some will concentrate on empirical issues, and some will concern institutional/procedural questions.

**Important Dates (subject to change):**

- 29.10.2015, 2.30 – 4 pm: Introductory meeting and presentation of topics  
(attendance is mandatory)
- through 04.11.2015: Distribution of topics
- 14.01.2016, 2 – 6 pm and  
15.01.2016, 9 am – 6 pm and  
16.01.2016, 9 am – 6 pm } Student presentations (attendance is mandatory)
- 21.03.2016, 12 am: Deadline for submission of term papers

**Participants:**

The seminar is offered as a **Research Module in International Economics** to those students in the **Masters Program “International Economics and Public Policy” (MIEPP)** who chose the specialization area **“International Economics”**.

**Basic References:**

Krugman, P., M. Obstfeld, and M.J. Melitz (2012): *International Economics – Theory and Policy*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (Pearson): Chapters 9 – 12.

(Note: In terms of analytics, our ambition is to go beyond the level of this excellent (undergraduate) textbook. However, reading these chapters should make sure that *every* (!) participant is endowed with a basic knowledge of trade policy terminology and analytics.)

Felbermayr, G.J. and M. Larch (2013): “The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Potentials, Problems, and Perspectives”, *CESifo Forum 14 (2)*, 49-60. Available at

<http://www.cesifo-group.de/de/ifoHome/publications/docbase/details.html?docId=19093256>

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