

JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ – D 55099 Mainz

Seminar (“Research Module”) in International Economics

“Challenges to Globalization”

Summer Semester 2026

FACHBEREICH 03

Rechts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften

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Motivation:

In recent years, globalization – defined as the integration of global goods, services and asset markets, but also the exchange of ideas and the movement of people – has been exposed to increasing strain: right-wing populism with its “anti-globalist” agenda is on the rise, and trade policies have become more protectionist. At the same time, the world has become “multipolar”, with other countries (or groups of countries) questioning the hegemony of the US and US-based institutions, and technical innovations are challenging the familiar distribution of economic and political roles. Finally, current geopolitical challenges are re-directing trade flows and resulting in new confrontations and allegiances. The goal of this seminar is to explore this evolution, its causes, consequences, and to sketch potential scenarios for the future.

Important Dates (as of January 20, 2026; possibly subject to change):

April 23, 2026: 2.15 pm – 3.45 pm	Introductory meeting (room: 00 311 HS VI) (attendance is mandatory)
through May 4, 2026:	Distribution of topics
June 25, 2026, 2 pm – 6 pm and June 26, 2026, 9 am – 6 pm	Student presentations room: Wiwi-Besprechungsraum -1 161 (ReWi II) (attendance is mandatory)
August 21, 2026, 11.59 pm:	Deadline for submission of term papers

Participants:

The seminar is offered as a **Research Module in International Economics** in the **Master's Program "International Economics and Public Policy" (MIEPP)**.

Prerequisites:

We expect students to be interested in both theoretical and empirical analyses, and to be willing to retrieve and process relevant economic data.

Topics:

At the first (mandatory) meeting on April 23, 2026, we will present different topics, which will be allocated among participants through May 04, 2026. Here is a preliminary list of potential topics (subject to changes):

- How can we measure the extent of globalization?
- How can we measure countries' economic interdependence?
- Is there a link between cultural factors and the backlash against globalization?
- Did technological change drive the recent backlash against globalization?
- (How) do tariffs affect net exports?
- (How) did tariffs affect the industrial structure in the US?
- What are the macroeconomic effects of trade wars?
- (How) do tariffs affect consumer prices?
- Should we re-assess the merits of industrial policy?
- Trade and war – is there a link?
- (How) do economic sanctions work?
- (How) will digital currencies affect the international financial system?
- (How) does central bank independence affect inflation?

Basic references:

We expect participants to be familiar with the following contributions

- Goldberg, P.K. and T. Reed (2023): "Is the global economy deglobalizing? If so, why? And what is next?", *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, Spring 2023: 347–396
- Gopinath, G., P.-O. Gourinchas, A.F. Presbitero, and P. Topalova (2025): "Changing global linkages: A new Cold War?", *Journal of International Economics* 153, 104042.

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Mohr, C. and C. Trebesch (2025): „Goeconomics”, *Annual Review of Economics* 17, 563-587.

Rodrik, D. (2025): “What the mercantilists got right”, *NBER Working Paper No. 34353*.

Further references will be given in the introductory meeting. Note, however, that the identification, retrieval and processing of relevant contributions is one of participants’ core tasks.

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