



QUEEN'S INSTITUTE ON TRADE POLICY

The New Supply Chain Trade Policy

April 7 - 9, 2025



Kingston, ON

The New Supply Chain Trade Policy

The story of globalization is the story of the growing complexity of supply chains. Governments have long used trade policies to help their companies become part of those supply chains. Most of these policies did not target any particular supply chain; instead, they created a general framework of rules to facilitate trade and investment in the hope that this would create a favourable environment for supply chains take root. Trade officials remained largely agnostic about who traded what with whom, as long as the trade generated high-paying jobs and prosperity.

This laissez-faire approach to supply chains is increasingly a thing of the past. Faced with the astonishing success of China's industrial policy, spooked by the reemergence of geopolitical competition, scarred by the experience of Covid-19 pandemic, and unnerved by the climate crisis, many governments are adopting a new supply chain trade policy that is less concerned with developing general rules and instead seeks to actively monitor, manage, support, and control specific supply chains.

Amid the general turn towards a more interventionist approach to supply chains, the objectives and policy tools vary widely. The Biden administration, along with other Western governments, scrambled to build up supply chains in industries in which China dominates, both to preserve (or recover) industrial leadership and to reduce dependencies on China. The second Trump administration appears willing to disrupt supply chains with friends and foes alike in pursuit of its political objectives. Export restrictions are back in vogue—either to deny competitors access to strategic goods, such as high-end semiconductors and critical materials, or to spur the development of processing industries for raw materials, such as nickel. Many governments have started to monitor supply chains for critical goods to ensure their resilience in the face of supply or demand shocks and to identify chokepoints controlled by strategic competitors. Governments also increasingly care about what happens along those supply chains—how much carbon is emitted, whether production takes place on deforested land, or whether producers use forced labour and deny their workers the right to collective bargaining.

The new supply chain trade policy poses considerable challenges for trade officials. They need to understand and develop metrics for success for a range of new trade policy objectives, from industrial policy to national security, from resilience to sustainability. They need to acquire detailed knowledge of specific supply chains to understand how to accomplish those objectives in relation to a specific product or service. They need to think anew about which trading partners are allies, competitors, and/or sources of concern in the context of specific products and policy objectives. They need to become familiar with a set of new (and newly rediscovered) policy tools, such as (voluntary) export restrictions, creatively designed rules of origin, carbon border adjustment mechanisms and screening mechanisms for both inbound and outbound investment. And they need to navigate the shifting institutional arrangements, including sectoral deals (especially on critical minerals), trade and investment packages (such as the EU's Global Gateway), and framework agreements (such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework), to which the new supply chain trade policy is giving rise.

The purpose of the 2025 edition of the Queen's Institute on Trade Policy is to prepare trade officials to navigate this new trade policy landscape. The first part of the Institute will survey the state of global trade and will provide conceptual and theoretical background on the new supply chain trade policy. The second part of the Institute will explore examples of that policy in action in relation to various sectors and supply chains, including agriculture, (electric) vehicles, semiconductors, and critical minerals. The final part of the Institute will discuss the implications of the new supply chain trade policy for domestic institutional arrangements for trade policy development and for the future of international trade cooperation.

Agenda

Monday April 7

2:45 PM

Introduction to the Institute

Nicolas Lamp, Director, Queen's Institute on Trade Policy; Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Queen's University

Part I: The State of Global Trade and the New Supply Chain Trade Policy

3:30 PM

The State of International Trade

Mary Lovely, Anthony M. Solomon Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

4:15 PM Break

4:45 PM

Integrating Risk, Reward and Resilience: Developing Policy Frameworks for Complex Problems

Anthea Roberts, Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), College of Asia & the Pacific, Australian National University

5:45 PM

The View from Washington: US Trade Policy and the Future of North American Trade Cooperation

Wendy Cutler, Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute

6:45 PM End of the day

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 AM

The Economic Consequences of US Protectionism

Stephen Tapp, Chief Economist, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

9:45 AM

What is "Supply Chain Trade Policy"?

Ari Van Assche, Professor, HEC Montreal

10:30 AM Break

Part II: Supply Chain Trade Policy in Practice

11:00 PM

The Rise of Export Restrictions

Sarah Bauerle Danzman, Associate Professor, International Studies, Indiana University Bloomington

11:45 AM

International Cooperation on Digital Issues and Supply Chain Trade

Javier López-González, Senior Economist, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM

Industrial Subsidies and the Resurgence of Industrial Policy

Julia Nielson, Deputy Director, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

2:30 PM

Building Supply Chains for Critical Minerals

Wolfgang Alschner, Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law, University of Ottawa

3:15 PM Break

3:45 PM

China's Growth Model and Its Role in Global Supply Chains

Yeling Tan, Professor of Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

4:45 PM

The United States' Trade Policy Toolkit

Kathleen Claussen, Professor, Georgetown Law

5:30 PM End of the Day

Wednesday, April 9

9:00 AM

The Future of Agricultural Supply Management in Canada

Ryan Cardwell, Professor, Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics, University of Manitoba

9:45 AM

The European Union's Supply Chain Trade Policy

Ignacio García Bercero, Non-Resident Fellow, Bruegel (formerly EU Commission)

10:30 AM Break

Part III: Implications for Trade Policy Development and International Trade Cooperation

11:00 AM

The Role of the World Trade Organization in Making Supply Chains Transparent

Robert Wolfe, Professor Emeritus, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University

11:45 AM

A Private Sector Perspective on Supply Chain Trade Policy

William Pellerin, Partner, International Trade, McMillan (tbc)

12:30 AM Lunch Break

1:30 PM

A Negotiating Strategy for the New Trade Policy Landscape

Steve Verheul, Principal, GT & Company

2:30 PM

The Outlook for Canadian Trade Policy

Mary-Catherine Speirs, Director General - Trade Negotiations Bureau, Global Affairs Canada

Lynn McDonald, Director General - North America Trade Policy, Global Affairs Canada

3:30 PM Institute ends