



University of Sussex

Business & Management

Seminar series

Date: Wednesday 26 March

Speaker: Prof Steven McGuire (Prifysgol Aberystwyth University)

Title: Multilateral Agreements and Global Governance of International Trade and Financial Regimes

Abstract: Trading agreements between major global and regional powers in different geographical regions are an increasingly significant feature of world trade. This paper conceptualises how trade governance is evolving within trading agreements in the Atlantic Space. In doing so, the paper assesses compatibility between Atlantic Space and WTO agreements, examines convergence/divergence between these agreements, and comments on whether the Atlantic Space trading agreements can contribute to global trade governance. Further, it elaborates on trade governance framework by discussing governance indicators. Two main research questions are posed: What are the areas of convergence and divergence in trading agreements negotiated between trading partners in the Atlantic Space? Can the Atlantic Space agreements contribute to a new framework on global trade governance by connecting the bilateral with multilateral framework? Findings reveal that: firstly, trade liberalisation commitments undertaken by partner countries within the Atlantic Space aim for eventual convergence with WTO agreements, though some agreements are aspirational in nature; second, the degree of trade governance convergence between the Atlantic Space and WTO agreements depends on the level of partner countries' development and integration into the world economy.