



Work Package 2: Preferential Trade

The theme of regionalism (or preferentialism) is arguably at the very heart of the debate between fragmentation and coherence in trade regulation. The dual-faceted nature of regionalism, which the protracted state of the Doha Development Agenda has without doubt fuelled, has confirmed in the minds of many NCCR researchers the analytical need to deepen our understanding of the economic, legal and political motivations behind preferential trade agreements (PTAs), their contrasting and evolving substantive nature, the extent to – and nature in - which PTAs have pushed the envelopes of rule-making and market opening beyond what exists or is contemplated at the WTO, their effects on trade and investment activity and the systemic impacts that the continued spread of PTAs may exert on the future of international trade regulation. The research proposals advanced for Work Package 2 aim at investigating these questions through a pluri-disciplinary lens.

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