

International trade: theory and the Mexican case

In this course we aim to explain the theoretical economic effects that are expected from an incurring in international trade. Those results will be confronted with empirical evidence, focusing on the Mexican case. We will start with the classical Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin models and extend to more complex environments, by introducing more goods, qualitatively differentiating them through the consideration of intermediate goods, and factors. We will confront the theoretical predictions with the trade patterns. We will discuss empirical factors that affect international trade and approach the tools that are used to estimate them, such as the gravity equation; this way, we will be able to discuss the effects of scale economies and/or transportation costs. We will analyze the effect of specific considerations, such as monopolistic competition, and relate them to the Mexican reality. In addition, we will analyze the expected theoretical effect of foreign direct investment, which have been regulated through free trade agreements, as well as explain the relationship between both of them. As it has been of greater importance during last years, study trade in tasks and its implications on trade of services and inequality. Last, from a political economy point of view we will study free trade agreements as a commitment tool, both from the theoretical and empirical perspectives.