



# IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

24 April 2014, 2pm  
Room Fred Halliday– IBEI (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**Prof. Dirk De Bièvre**  
University of Antwerp

## *International Institutions and Domestic Lobbying Patterns: The WTO and Interest Aggregation in EU and US Trade Policy*

What is the impact of the World Trade Organization on lobbying patterns in trade policymaking? Existing explanations focus mainly on economic determinants, like the rise of intra-industry trade. We argue that the international trade institutions of the WTO regime themselves are key for understanding which type of interest aggregation of firm and interest group preferences is likely to arise. We argue that the institutional setting of issue-linkage based trade negotiations creates incentives for firms to work through broad sector-wide lobbying organizations, while judicialized adjudication and enforcement in WTO dispute settlement stimulates de-linkage, leading to product-specific interest aggregation. We demonstrate how these two hypotheses can explain the co-existence of both sector-wide and product-specific lobbying in the contemporary international trade regime. We provide evidence on interest aggregation for US and EU initiated WTO disputes, and on EU and US domestic interest organizations that mobilize during multilateral trade rounds or are present at WTO ministerial conferences.

### **Prof. Dirk De Bièvre**

Dirk De Bièvre is professor of international politics and international political economy at the University of Antwerp (Flanders, Belgium). He studied at the universities of Leuven (Flanders, B), Louvain-la-Neuve (Wallonia, B), and Konstanz (D), and obtained his PhD at the European University Institute in San Domenico di Fiesole (I) in 2002. His main research interests are EU trade policy, interest groups, and the World Trade Organization. He has published on these topics in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Journal of Public Policy, Regulation and Governance*, *Global Policy*, *Comparative European Politics*, and the *Journal of World Trade*. Together with Sieglinde Gstöhl (from the College of Europe in Brugge), he is currently finishing a book manuscript for the EU Series of Palgrave Macmillan on *The Trade Policy of the European Union*. Together with Arlo Poletti (ACIM, Universiteit Antwerpen and LUISS, Rome) he is editing a special issue of the *World Trade Review* on 'Judicial Politics in International Trade Institutions'. He previously was a post-doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods in Bonn, and an EU and Volkswagen Foundation research fellow at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) of the University of Mannheim.

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