Globalization and Law: an economic perspective on international trade and competition

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Course description

In this seminar we consider globalization, its instruments and institutions, the governance of international and domestic markets, the impact of globalization on economic development, and the economic, political and institutional challenges raised by globalization. We explore the underlying forces of globalization, the political impact of globalization on nation-states, the economic achievements and failures of globalization, why some countries have benefitted from globalization more than others, the economic challenges created by the globalization of markets and the increasing fragmentation of nation states, the failed attempts to create a global competition law and the proposals for the adoption of common international competition principles, the achievements and failures of convergence of national competition regimes, voluntary cooperation between national competition authorities and the increasing role of competition provisions in regional trade agreements.

Class requirements

There is no textbook for the course but students are expected to read a number of assigned chapters in books on globalization including “Making Globalization Work” Joseph Stiglitz, “Why Nations Fail” Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, “In Defense of Globalization” Jagdish Bhagwati, “The Globalization Paradox” Dani Rodrick, “Global Competition: Law, Markets, and Globalization” David Gerber, “Global Issues in Antitrust and Competition Law”, Eleanor Fox. A number of articles as well as documents from international organizations will be handed out. These materials will be discussed in ten class sessions. The remaining classes will be used for presentation and discussion of student papers.

Examination procedure /Writing requirement

There will be no examination or mid-term exam for the course. Students will be required write a 25 pages (double-spaced) research paper on topics to be agreed on at the beginning of the course.