EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR THE TERM PAPER

Aalto University, International Trade (31E00500), Winter 2016

These suggestions are included only to provide you ideas on possible topics. Feel free to invent your own research question.

**General examples of topics:**

- What is “the Doha Round” and what might be its impacts on XXX country/countries?

- How the World Trade Organization has succeeded and what challenges does it still have?

- How Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) has been used to help developing countries?

- Do regional trading blocks enhance or inhibit multilateral free trade?

- How a 5% decrease in labor costs is expected to affect Finland’s global trade flows of goods and services?

- International Trade and employment Conditions: What do theoretical models predict versus what has happened in reality?

- How the WTO and ILO have affected the global employment conditions?

- The impact on international trade on the environment?

- Sustainable development agenda: can trade agreements be used to protect the environment?

- Trade in agriculture and fishery: How the Doha Round might affect it?

- Who is exporting and importing services and how does that affect these countries general welfare?

- How can trade in services be liberated and what kinds of agreements have been already made to liberate trade in services?

- How tariffs and NTBs affect trade and how high trade barriers do they create currently?

- What types of NTMs (non-tariff measures) exist and how the different types of NTMs affect international trade?
• How government procurement practices affect international trade?
• How competition policies affect international trade?
• Trade Policy Instruments (anti-dumping; anti-subsidy; safeguard actions) and how they have affected / affect international trade?
• EU-US bilateral trade: Theoretical expectations versus the actual development of trade patterns?
• What kinds of trade barriers affect the EU-US trade and investment?
• How the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is likely to affect EU or US economic structures?
• How has “9/11” affected the international trade flows?
• How is exports’ value added calculated and why should we care about these statistics in trade analyses?
• History of tariff rates, and tariff laws, in Finland (or the United States, Spain, UK, Japan, etc.); e.g. How the tariff liberalization period of the late 1800's to 1930's compare to today’s trade liberation policies?
• Impacts of immigration to international trade / economic development of XXX (country/countries) in the history?
• Current immigration flows and their expected impact on international trade patterns or economic development?
• Historic or current protection of some particular industry (e.g. automobiles, steel, sugar, textiles and apparel, footwear) in a particular country/area: E.g. How domestic protection of the airplane industry has impacted EU trade flows?
• Current elimination of the Multi-Fibre agreement, which has caused a huge inflow of imports from China: Rationale for, and status of, current attempts in Europe and the US to temporarily limit the flow of these imports from China.
• Pharmaceuticals and Trade: Should there be restrictions on re-imports e.g. into the US of drugs sold abroad (for example, should drugs sold in Canada be allowed into the US)? In practice, how large are the price differences and what are the economic implications of allowing such imports?
• Health, Safety and Food Standards – legitimate regulation or possible sources of international trade frictions?
- Trade Flows and the Predictive Power of different Economic Models (Heckscher-Ohlin, Krugman, Gravity, CGE, etc.)?

- How trade flows have affected income distributions within countries, theoretical expectations versus empirical findings?

- How firm heterogeneity can affect income distributions within countries?

- The impact of trade liberalizations on different types of firms?

- How international trade has affected income differences between countries?

- How does international trade affect poverty in Least Developed Countries?

- Subsidies and Trade: How local tax/subsidy policies can affect plant location and trade patterns? (Choose an example case)

- Trends in global FDI flows and explanations to these trends?

- Intellectual Property Rights Protection and FDI flows {for example, differences in patent systems; effect of enforcing patent protection on developing countries;…}

- How significant outsourcing has it been and what are its likely impact e.g. on the Finnish economy?

- Tax Policies towards multinationals in different countries and their economic impacts (e.g. on employment or public income)?