Homa Taheri

Department of Economics, IU, Ostrom Fellow

Wednesday, February 2: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET  
Virtual via Zoom: Click here for link to Zoom meeting

NOTE: We'll be using a different Zoom account for this presentation only.

A Framework for Analyzing Safeguards at the World Trade Organization

Safeguards are legal reliefs provided at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its precedent, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in the event the imports from other countries are a cause of substantial injury in another. They allow a provisional limit of imports from all trading partners, regardless of their role in damaging the domestic industries. This paper was inspired by the increase in the frequency of safeguard measures under the WTO compared to the GATT: between 1995 and 2018, 172 safeguard measures were imposed by 36 countries, compared with 150 actions by 24 countries taken between 1947 and 1994. This research focuses on the interactions at the Safeguard Committee at the WTO and how its institutional arrangements along with the context in which international trade happens among countries, contribute to the observed pattern of initiating safeguards as increased tariffs or quotas in response to a sudden increase in imports.

Homa Taheri is a fellow at the Ostrom Workshop and a second year PhD student of Economics at Indiana University-Bloomington. She is interested in studying the welfare effects of international trade on households. Earlier in her career, she worked as an economic researcher in the public sector, focusing on poverty alleviation and decreasing inequality. She also has four years of work experience as an engineer in the private sector. Find more information about Homa at https://www.linkedin.com/in/homataheri/.

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