INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT: BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



Beata Javorcik



Reshaping of GVCs

- COVID exposed excessive concentration of suppliers and vulnerability to shocks
- Political pressure to reshore motivated by self-sufficiency & economic nationalism
- Uncertainty about trade policy
- Resilience vs. cost trade-off as a counteracting force
- Opportunity for less popular investment destinations

Potential for near-shoring German imports from China



Exports drop in March 2020 relative to the historical average

France



Turkey

Source: Demir & Javorcik (OxREP, 2020)

Flows insured by trade finance instruments are more resilient

- In times of crises, uncertainty increases
 - Greater risk of non-payment or nondelivery
 - More demand for insurance
- Insured flows appear to have been more resilient so far
 - Letters of credit insure against nonpayment and non-delivery
 - Documentary collection (using bank intermediation does not provide formal insurance but can help mitigate risks)

Change Turkish exports in March 2020 relative to historical average: disaggregated by financing terms



Share of LC-based exports in total exports

Exports to all destinations



Exports to China



Source: Demir & Javorcik (OxREP, 2020)

Trade Finance

- Inability to insure trade responsible for 10% of the Great Trade Collapse in 2009 (Crozet, Demir & Javorcik, 2020)
- Decline in trade finance availability in emerging markets
- Intra-firm trade more resilient to crises than arms-length trade (Crozet, Demir & Javorcik, 2020)
 - => Gives advantage to multinational firms



Will remote work enable exports of services?

- Remote working is here to stay
- Why not go a step further and hire foreign workers?
- Limitations
 - Times zones
 - Data protection
 - Travel restrictions
- Opportunity for countries with inexpensive skilled labour to export services



Expected retrenchment of FDI flows



Implication of FDI retrenchment

Foreign divestment & TFP

Foreign acquisitions & CO₂ emissions/output



Javorcik & Poelhekke (JEEA, 2017)

Brucal, Javorcik & Love (JIE, 2019)

Conclusions

 Reshaping of globalisation: fewer goods but more services traded

• Lower supply of trade finance: less resilience & growing advantage of MNCs over local firms

• Lower FDI flows: slower growth & green transition