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# Journal Pre-proof

New Protectionist policies, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Organization of Firms

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## **New Protectionist policies, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Organization of Firms**

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The project “New Protectionist Policies: Political Determinants and Economic Consequences” funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR) under the programme ‘MIUR Progetti di Ricerca di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (PRIN) 2017 aims at investigating causes and effects of trade and trade-related policies in the current global context in order to provide a framework to identify new protectionist challenges and assessing their impact on trade and organizational patterns of international production. Firms and workers navigate through adjustments in the organization of production that fundamentally affect productivity and profits, employment and wages. Given our limited knowledge of how specific provisions affect the organizational patterns of international production, we want to better understand the consequences of trade measures on firm location, ownership, and organizational decision, with the goal of producing welfare-enhancing policies that stimulate productivity and innovation potential of firms and the economy.

This special issue of *International Economics* titled “New Protectionist policies, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Organization of Firms” is a step to achieve the aforementioned objectives by collecting a series of theoretical and empirical contributions that help answer some of the questions raised in the project. It is a follow-up to “the Workshop on International Trade and Intellectual Property Rights,” which took place in September 2022 at the Rimini campus of the University of Bologna (Italy) within the framework of the same project. Six papers are included on various aspects of international trade from the perspective of increased protectionist measures, foreign direct investment, multiproduct firms, supply chains, intellectual property protection, and technology adoption.

We acknowledge the funds by MIUR to make this project and the workshop possible, and are grateful to the University of Bologna for the logistical support. We would also like to thank the participants to the workshop for the quality of the debates during the sessions, and particularly our keynote speakers, Keith Maskus, from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Veronica Rappoport from the London School of Economics and Political Science, for their invaluable contributions to the workshop. We are also indebted to Mario Larch and Valerie Mignon, the managing editors of *International Economics*, for providing us the opportunity to publish this special issue on New Protectionist policies, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Organization of Firms. We thank the anonymous referees for their punctuality and very helpful comments and remarks that made it possible to produce a quality special issue on the topic by putting together the following contributions:

In *“Entering the supplier base through certified management standards”*, Stefano Bolatto and Giuseppe Pignataro study how small/medium enterprises use certification at international standard-setting bodies to signal their quality to large global downstream firms and in doing so, increase the probability of receiving a contract offer. The strategy of multiple certification allows high-quality suppliers to expand the space for separation from the low-quality suppliers.

In *“The strategic proximity-concentration trade-off with multiproduct multinational firms,”* Gaetano Alfredo Minerva examines the proximity-concentration trade-off in the context of a two-country model with two multiproduct multinational firms that produce different varieties of the good and compete for market share. The model shows that investment frictions generate dumping in trade, and predicts an inverse relationship between the number of foreign affiliates and domestic market share.

In *“Gains from Trade and their Quantification: Does Sectoral Disaggregation Matter?”*, Stefano Bolatto and Graziano Moramarco take a closer look at the result that multi-sector gravity model specifications often produce noticeably larger gains from trade, as compared to the one-sector specifications. The authors conclude that this magnification is mainly driven by cross-sector variation in trade elasticity, and that a one-sector specification is a credible framework for counterfactual analysis on the effects of trade policy shocks.

In *“Trade Secret Protection, Multinational Firms and International Trade”*, Michael Klein develops a general equilibrium model with heterogeneous firms to examine the economic implications of strengthening international standards in trade secret protection. Firms expose employees to trade secrets to a various degree and offer incentive compatible wage premiums to prevent misappropriation. The model shows that stronger trade secret protection increases aggregate welfare and the real wage of workers at firms with low wage premiums; but the real wage of workers at firms with high wage premiums falls.

In *“Technology adoption and specialized labor,”* Miguel Ángel Almazán, Elias Carroni, Marco Delogu, and Giuseppe Pulina examine the role of endogenous worker skill acquisition and the effects of shortages in specialized labour on technology adoption and diffusion. The proportion of firms that adopt the technology is larger when firms’ products are less differentiated, because a larger specialized wage premium incentivizes more workers to obtain specialized training in this case.

Finally, in *“The Impact of the Strengthening of Export Controls on Japanese Exports of Dual-use Goods”*, Kazunobu Hayakawa, Keiko Ito, Kyoji Fukao, and Ivan Deseatnicov examine the effect of export control regulations on Japan’s exports using monthly export data from January 2017 to December 2021. Among other results, the paper finds no significant effects of the introduction or tightening of export controls by the Japanese government on Japan’s exports.

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