

IMPACT REPORT

Regional Studies Association Policy Expo Grant Scheme

Expo Title: Harnessing Global Value Chains for Regional Development

Authors: Riccardo Crescenzi, London School of Economics and Oliver Harman, University of Oxford

Summary of the achievements of the project

The RSA Policy Impact Book 'Harnessing Global Value Chains for regional development' successfully brought together the latest academic evidence and public policy insights with global value chains (GVCs) and foreign direct investment (FDI). It did this focusing on regional development and policy, thus contributing to the gap in knowledge between global investment and local development.

The resulting work saw its authors engage across various levels of government and numerous international jurisdictions. At the local level, one example was with city level policymakers in the UK, at the national level with Ministerial advisors of trade in West African governments and Directors of investment bodies in South Asian governments. At the supranational level the work has influenced the European Commission.

Beyond government, international organisations such as the OECD, World Bank and World Intellectual Property Organization saw merit in including the book's findings and insights citing it in their policy recommendations.

In reviews and media, the work was described by the Financial Times as 'a new template for global value chains' with LSE's Review of Books putting it as one of their recommended reads for understanding the economy today. The presentation of the work at numerous academic workshops and public policy forums intends to maintain its relevance at the frontier of thinking in this area. The work was directly funded by the European Research Council and with publication and dissemination from the Regional Studies Association. It also received in kind support from the International Growth Centre.

Major Achievements

- Book reviewed in Financial Times' [FDI Intelligence magazine](#). Described as 'a new template for global value chains'
- [LSE Review of Books](#) listed book as a recommended read for understanding the economy today alongside LSE Director Minouche Shafik and former DFID Chief Economist Stefan Dercon
- Book's framework fed into report for Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank 2021 Flagship report '[Sustaining Global Value Chains](#)' where the author's explicitly drafted Chapter 6, 'A

Policy Framework for Infrastructure Development and Global Value Chains'. At Dean's Forum at Blavatnik School of Government, Ludger Schuknecht (Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the AIB) spoke directly to the report and highly of the way it influenced their thinking.

- Working draft of the book referenced in World Bank 'book' and policy communication document '[Using Investment Policies to Stimulate Global Value Chain Participation](#)'
- Working draft of the book referenced in World Bank 'book' and policy communication document '[An Investment Perspective on Global Value Chains](#)'.
- Working draft of the book referenced in OECD publications:
 - Regional Development Working Paper '[Does FDI benefit incumbent SMEs?](#)' drafted by others:
 - [Measuring the attractiveness of regions:](#)
 - [Rethinking Regional Attractiveness in the New Global Environment](#)
- Working draft of the book referenced in World Intellectual Property Organization publications'
 - [The Geography of Innovation: Local Hotspots, Global Networks:](#)
 - [The Geography of Innovation: Local Hotspots and Global Innovation Networks.](#)
- Working draft of the book referenced in Publications Office of European Union:
 - [The human-centered city:](#) opportunities for citizens through research and innovation.
 - [Foreign direct investment, global value chains and regional economic development in Europe final report.](#)
 - [Where Global Value Chains go local:](#) EU regions, global value chain creation and local upgrading
- Organised a special Session as part of RSA's Winter Conference 'Regions in Recovery' centred around the book and its arguments:
- Book's framework fed into presentation made on 'Infrastructure projects for African integration into global value chains' where the following bureaucrats commented positively:
 - Mariama Hamadou Ali, Director Economy, Minister of Economy, Finance in charge of Industry and Planning, Djibouti
 - Katchali Batchassi, Director of External Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Local Consumption, Togo
 - Mousse Sow, Advisor to Ministry of Finance in Senegal
 - Madame Aka, Head of Service, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Direction Générale de L'Economie, Cote D'Ivoire
- Book launch; [Global Value Chains for Regional Development](#): mobilising trade and FDI for economic development
- LSE events on the book, its findings, and regional applications
 - South East Asia forum; [Climbing up global value chains: leveraging FDI for economic development in Asia](#)
 - Canada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies; [Global Value Chains for Regional Development in Latin America](#)

- Online version of book shared in DGREGIO #EURegionsWeek at RSA stand
- Book input into White Paper for philanthropic trade focused organisation Hinrich Foundation
 - [White Paper](#); Climbing up global value chains: Leveraging FDI for economic development:
 - Authors presented to South and South East Asian press in specific webinar (no link available)
 - Authors presented to public as part of webinar on Global Value Chains and dynamic specialization: [Upgrading through FDI](#):
 - Hinrich created a [discussion guide for educators](#) based on white paper:
 - Authors provided two related Hinrich [blogs](#):
- Applied toolkit of book for Connected Places Catapult 'The UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport & place leadership' for North of England local governments and presentation - Available upon request, title: Leveraging opportunities from Global Value Chains for regional development
- Presented green and sustainable application of book's ideas as Opening Plenary at RSA's annual conference 2023 Ljubljana; [Green Global Value Chains for Sustainable Regional Development](#).
- Published an associated blog as part of RSA's Summer Blog series titled [Green Global Value Chains for Sustainable Regional Development](#).
- Brought leading scholars together to discuss book and adjacent ideas as part of RSA [Regions Cities Industry](#) Webinar Series.
- Spoke on [Governance Uncovered](#): Local Politics and Development Podcast of book and application as part of Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg's podcast.
- Presented application of the book at the following summits, workshops and forums:
 - Sustainable and 'green' global value chain application of the work at [Climate Change Summit](#) Central Eastern Europe. 250 in person and 200K+ online viewers.
 - Application to Ukraine in Ukraine Reconstruction Forum, 26th and 27th May, 2022 at LSE, London
 - Untangled workshop: old and new inequalities in disruptive times on 1 Feb 2023 in Politecnico di Milano
 - Inter American Development Bank, Internal Seminars (on-line), 2 November 2022, hosted at Washington DC
 - Sustainable Regional Development in the Western Balkans, Academy of Science of Albania, 31st March, 2023 in Tirana, Albania
 - La Inversion Extranjera Direct y a multinacionales en un mundo cambiante, Foro Canada Blanch, Caixa Forum Valencia, 20th April 2023
 - Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities; OECD, Paris, 25th May 2023

- Book referenced and underpinned written evidence to UK Parliament on Inward FDI:
 - Evidence: [here](#) and [here](#)
 - Utilisation in House of Commons [Committee report](#), with recommendations to government
- Digital impact:
 - Fairly large reach on initial [online twitter launch](#): with >23K impressions, ~750 engagements and >300 expands.
 - High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age in Altmetric ([82nd percentile](#)) for [\(link\)](#) Harnessing Global Value Chains for regional development and the overview 'The Book in a Nutshell' is in the top 25% of outputs.
 - [Most read article](#) (online) of any Policy Impact Book chapter to date
- LSE Research for the World
 - GVC [Explainer Video](#); 'What are Global Value Chains and why they matter for regional & regional development:
 - [Article](#); Leveraging opportunities from Global Value Chains for regional development
- Use of book as a baseline for [e-book chapter](#) 'From local regions in the EU to those in Ukraine (and back again): How FDI and global value chains tie our local economies together' as part of Supporting Ukraine: More critical than ever (2023) edited by Yuriy Gorodnichenko and Vladyslav Rashkovan
- Book presented to Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and future research currently co-generated from the discussion.
- Book presented to Indonesia Investment Promotion Centre during related policy engagement and research discussion visit to LSE. Next steps and research co-generation underway.

12. Overall assessment of the achievements and success of the project

We believe we have successfully achieved the research objectives—almost in their entirety. The policy expo experience ensured a coordination of presence and thinking between the authors in a way that would be unlikely achieved without the aid of the RSA. It supercharged our efforts and the nature of a policy focused book, rather than a report brought interest from a much wider and varied group—both broadening and deepening the impact.

Future development and dissemination plans

We will continue our efforts as above in presentations to government, events at our HEIs, podcasts, shorter applied versions of the content, adapted multimedia etc as outlined above. We welcome continued support from RSA in these efforts and would like to engage more explicitly with Routledge in these efforts.

Riccardo Crescenzi and Oliver Harman