

# A JOINT SEMINAR WITH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

## Topic: The Uptake of Global Value Chains by International Organizations

### ABSTRACT

Global value chains (GVCs) have provided a useful framework for understanding the new global economy associated with geographically dispersed supply chains, global outsourcing by multinational lead firms, and the dynamic growth of large emerging economies. A critical but hitherto overlooked aspect of GVC analysis is its rapid adoption during the past decade by virtually all of the leading international organizations (IOs) that focus on economic and social development issues in the global economy. While concerns that the 2008–09 global economic recession would spark a wave of protectionism generated a focus on high-risk GVCs (e.g., apparel, autos, electronics, steel) by the World Bank, OECD and WTO, a broader array of IO's have utilized the GVC perspective to advance a diverse range of programs and policy initiatives linked to the goals of inclusive and sustainable development. My research seeks not only to document the reasons for the rapid uptake of GVCs by IOs, but also to unpack the multiple ways the GVC framework is being utilized by IOs on the ground: (1) a neoliberal approach, which emphasizes open international trade and investment to promote gains from GVCs; (2) a developmentalist approach, which highlights the role of strong states and national industrial policy to harness GVCs for local development; and (3) a public-private collaborative approach, which targets lead firms in GVCs (both global and domestic) that are willing to adapt their strategies to incorporate local development goals, while the public sector provides the institutional foundations for private sector growth. A related issue is how the changing configuration of GVCs is likely to alter the future relevance of IO's in mediating and recasting the global development agenda in an increasingly stratified and uncertain international economy.

*Gary Gereffi is visiting the Global Production Networks Centre (GPN@NUS) and the Department of Sociology, as Visiting Professor from 4 May – 1 June 2016.*



### SPEAKER:

Professor Gary Gereffi  
Professor, Department of  
Sociology;  
Director, Center on Globalization,  
Governance & Competitiveness;  
Adjunct Professor of Business  
Administration and Corporate  
Sustainability,  
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### CHAIR:

Assistant Professor Kurtuluş Gemici  
Department of Sociology  
National University of Singapore

### DATE:

Friday, 20 May 2016

### TIME:

3pm – 4.30pm

### VENUE:

Sociology Seminar Room  
Department of Sociology, NUS  
Block AS1, #02-12,  
11 Arts Link Singapore 117570



## Gary Gereffi

Gary Gereffi is Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of the Center on Globalization, Governance, & Competitiveness at Duke University (<http://www.cggc.duke.edu/>). He received his B.A. degree from the University of Notre Dame and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University.

Gereffi has published numerous books and articles on globalization, industrial upgrading, and social and economic development, and he is one of the originators of the global commodity chain and global value chain frameworks.

His most recent books include: *Brazilian Industry in Global Value Chains* (Portuguese and English) (Elsevier, 2014); *Shifting End Markets and Upgrading Prospects in Global Value Chains* (special issue of *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development*, 2011); *Global Value Chains in a Postcrisis World: A Development Perspective* (The World Bank, 2010); and *The New Offshoring of Jobs and Global Development* (International Institute of Labor Studies, 2006).

His major ongoing research projects are: (1) a book on the uptake of the global value chain paradigm by major international organizations in the economic and social development arena (expected completion date: August 2016); (2) work with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on export competitiveness, workforce development, and regional value chains, with an emphasis on Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa; (3) member of the Global Agenda Council on "The Future of Manufacturing" (World Economic Forum), which will initiate a bi-annual "Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit" co-sponsored by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), beginning in 2016; and (4) "A Global Value Chain Analysis of Food Security and Food Staples in the Energy-Exporting Countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region," funded by the Minerva Initiative (U.S. Dept. of Defense) (2012-2016).