



## **RESEARCH WORKSHOP for PhD Students and young researchers**

12 January 2024

Complutense Institute for International Studies (ICEI-UCM)

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### **Invitation and Call for Papers**

#### ***Productive capacities, infrastructures, and industrial transformation for upgrading in Global Value Chains***

The CatChain project has been running over the last years -in the timeframe spanning both before and after the COVID19 pandemic lockdown- and now it is close to end. The aim has been to provide new insights, theoretical development, and empirical evidence about the possibilities of upgrading along Global Value Chains (GVC) from different perspectives.

Understanding international -global and regional- value chains and the main drivers for firms to participate and benefit from the international fragmentation of production have remarkable implications for the industrial transformations of lagging economies. Exploring the industrial and micro levels of analysis yields compelling insights into how firms navigate challenges associated with capabilities, harness new knowledge, integrated digital technologies, and tailor their strategies to align current green initiatives.

A deeper knowledge of the drivers and barriers for the engagement in GVC allows us to measure and explain forward and backward participation at country level. Measuring global and regional value chains at sectoral level has notable implications for stakeholders too. Then, research outcomes have also consequences for the orientation of industrial policies seeking to enhance both tangible and intangible assets.

Diversification and reconfiguration of GVC go hand in hand with the challenges of digitalizing and greening productive activities and processes, and help data management and energy transition in both production and transports.

Thus, we seek the beneficial interaction of specialists in international trade, innovation, economic geography, international business and MNEs, in order to develop new analytical frameworks while providing for new empirical evidence.

- If you are a PhD student (or young researcher) with an interest in global value chains, global innovation networks, industrial upgrading and the impact of digitalization and green technologies on international value chains (regional and global value chains, GVCs), you are invited to apply

to discuss your research paper at a CatChain<sup>1</sup> event to be held at Complutense University of Madrid (ICEI, Somosaguas campus).

- Please submit your extended abstract (between 1000-1500 words max, in English) to [diricei@ucm.es](mailto:diricei@ucm.es) before December 9, 2023.

Possible topics (not an exclusive list):

- Digitalizing global value chains
- Greening global value chains
- Economic Complexity
- Infrastructures for GVCs
- GVCs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Accepted papers will be announced no later than December 12. Theoretical as well as empirical contributions are equally encouraged, including both quantitative and qualitative studies.

Research papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance within the field
2. Technical and/or theoretical content
3. Degree of novelty

This invitation is addressed to PhD students and young scholars; limited CatChain (EC) funds will be made available for accepted papers to help finance travel and accommodation expenditures for corresponding authors, according to the evaluation of submitted papers.

Presentations by senior and junior researchers will be organized across four sessions – morning and afternoon – on January 12, 2024. Each session will permit sufficient time for paper presentations and discussions.

Senior scholars to be confirmed.

*Organizing Committee:*

Isabel Álvarez (Chair), Andrea Carrera, Angel Valarezo, Esther Gil.

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<sup>1</sup> The CatChain EC Project: *Catching-up along the global value chain. Models, determinants and policy implications.*