

# Patent Placement: Evaluating the Impact of the WTO/TRIPS on International Patenting Behavior

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## **Abstract**

I analyze the impact of several international treaties on global patenting behavior. Each effect is estimated using 3-way FE PPML with corresponding bias corrections. Using patent data from PATSTAT covering 211 countries/territories over the period 1980-2015, I construct bilateral aggregate patent flows as the primary measure of firm patenting behavior over time. Joint membership in GATT, the Paris Treaty, and the Patent Cooperation Treaty all have a significant positive impact on patenting behavior. The effect of the WTO/TRIPS however, is primarily non-discriminatory. The estimated effect of joint WTO membership is insignificant despite the large increase in patent applications as a result of joining.