Although the predictive power of the Gravity Model of Trade is well established in the relevant literature, and we have done our best to follow the best practices to avoid endogeneity when studying the effects of preferential agreements on international trade, it is important to note that out empirical analysis does not claim to achieve a causal inference on the effects of TAs. There could be other policies and forces driving the effects described in our estimates. Also, since the period studied comprehends the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, it is possible that running the same models for other periods of time could find different results. Our estimates could also be constrained by the quality of the data and reporting or measurement error in trade flows, particularly in South countries without robust institutional capacity and statistical infrastructure. By using relatively modern data we hope to mitigate this concern, but we acknowledge that the data of the first half of our period studied (1995-2005) might be less accurate than the later period (2005-2015). Still, this research provides useful insights, even if they are just illustrative, on the heterogeneous effects of TAs, and their development potential and use by developing countries.

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