



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 8,706: Recht/Law: Labor Alliances as New Actors of Transnational Private Regulation

ECTS credits: 3

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Role play, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Quiz, Digital, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,706,1.00 Recht/Law: Labor Alliances as New Actors of Transnational Private Regulation](#) -- English -- [Angelini Antonella](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

None

#### Learning objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to

- Situate and critically assess the notion of 'transnational private regulation' within the broader context of governance theories, as well as of business and human rights;
- Be able to distinguish the features of transnational labor alliances from other non-state actors;
- Understand and compare the power types that workers exercise when they cooperate in transnational campaigns;
- Be able to debate at a level of complexity the possibilities and contradictions facing workers, their movements, and organizations to build alternatives
- Be able to discuss the paradigm of "worker-driven social responsibility" and its expressions through hybrid regulatory schemes.
- Critically assess the possibilities and limits of emerging forms of worker-led governance initiatives to improve worker rights and worker power in global value chains.

#### Course content

The course will focus on the interface between transnational labor activism and transnational private regulation of business conduct. Drawing on theoretical debates, the role of corporations and for-profit auditing firms as the unique actors of private regulation for global supply chains will be challenged and put in perspective. The course will then develop a framework for understanding workers' power in the global economy and how workers' embeddedness in global production networks, national institutional frameworks, and social networks enables them to challenge employers internationally using hybrid regulation schemes. Emerging paradigms of supply chain governance, especially the Worker-driven social responsibility model, will be discussed. Specific country cases (including the United States, Lesotho, India, and Bangladesh) and economic sectors (especially apparel, agriculture, and fishing) will be explored.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design



The course is designed in a seminar format, with core readings discussed in-depth in each class based on a careful reading of the texts prior to class. The course consists of two main components. One component introduces participants to theoretical literatures that help to frame developments around transnational private governance, labor agency and sources of power, and changing collective mobilization of workers. The second component consists of a series of case studies of different sectors and/or different geographies, which bring out in detail the complexities outlined through the theoretical discussions. In these case studies, students will also examine and compare specific regulatory schemes developed by worker organizations to regulate global supply chains.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **StudyNet**. Only the current timetable as published on **Courses** does apply.

## Course literature

Anner, M. "Workers' Power in Global Value Chains: Fighting Sweatshop Practices at Russell, Nike and Knights Apparel", in M.-A. Hennebert and Ch. Lévesque (eds), *Transnational Trade Unionism: Building Union Power*, Peter Fairbrother, Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2013, pp. 23-41.

Anner, M., Bair, J., and Blasi, J. "Towards Joint Liability in Global Supply Chains: Addressing the Root Causes of Labor Violations in International Subcontracting Networks", *Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal*, Vol. 35, 2013, pp. 1-43.

Asbed, G., and Hitov, S. "Preventing Forced Labor in Corporate Supply Chains: The Fair Food Program and Worker-driven Social Responsibility", *Wake Forest Law Review*, Vol. 52, 2017, pp. 497-531.

Brookes, M. "Varieties of Power in Transnational Labor Campaigns Understanding Workers' Structural, Institutional, and Coalitional Power in the Global Economy." *Labor Studies Journal* 38 (3), 2013, pp. 181-200.

Danielsen, D. "Chapter 11. Situating Human Rights Approaches to Corporate Accountability in the Political Economy of Supply Chain Capitalism". *Power, Participation, and Private Regulatory Initiatives: Human Rights Under Supply Chain Capitalism*, edited by Daniel Brinks, Julia Dehm, Karen Engle and Kate Taylor, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021.

Fisher, K., Startiz, C. and Moe, S. "Scaling Up? On the Possibilities and Limits of Transnational Labour Organising in Globalised Production", *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik (JEP) Austrian Journal of Development Studies*, vol. XXXVIII 2/3-2022, pp. 8-37.

## Additional course information

Antonella Angelini holds a Ph.D. in International Studies (international law) from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. She is currently the Fair Food Program Research, Monitoring, and Learning Director.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/3)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Role play
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Practical test
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



## Remark

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## Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Quiz
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

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## Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

## Supplementary aids

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## 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work



Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

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## Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

Each student will be required to design, research, and write a research paper (between 3,000 and 3,500 words in length) on a transnational labor campaign of their choice. This paper shall discuss the strategies, objectives, types of power exercised by worker organizations, and the reasons for the success or failure of the chosen campaign. The paper will account for 50% of the final grade.

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## Examination content

1. Students will be administered a questionnaire with open-ended questions about the theoretical underpinnings of transnational private regulation. The questionnaire will account for **20%** of the final grade.
2. The students will be divided into groups, each representing an actor in a transnational labor campaign (a lead firm, a supplier located in the Global South, a worker organization from the Global North, and a group of workers from the host country). The role play will take part in three stages: initial violations and attempts to organize locally, transnational mobilization, and negotiation with lead firm(s) and supplier(s). Students will apply their theoretical notions to a real-life scenario by developing arguments and strategies for each stage. This role-play will account for **30%** of the final grade.
3. Each student will be required to design, research, and write a research paper (between 3,000 and 3,500 words in length) on a transnational labor campaign of their choice. This paper shall discuss the strategies, objectives, types of power exercised by worker organizations, and the reasons for the success or failure of the chosen campaign. The paper will account for **50%** of the final grade.

Topics could be: Transnational labor activism, Worker alliances, Varieties of worker powers, Global supply chains, Enforceable brand agreements, Private governance initiatives for global supply chains, Transnational labor networks, Bangladesh Accord, Worker-Driven Social Responsibility, Buyer-driven supply chains, Strategic corporate research, Global unions

## Examination relevant literature

Literature will be provided by StudyNet.



## Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2025) are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).