



**SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1–2, 2026**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN QUÉBEC**

**ORGANIZED BY**

**THE RESEARCH CHAIR ON THE NEW CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION, UNIVERSITÉ  
LAVAL**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOURS, THE UNIVERSITY OF NANTES, HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF  
LAW, THE FOREIGN TRADE UNIVERSITY IN HANOI, AND CREDIMI (UNIVERSITÉ BOURGOGNE  
EUROPE)**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FACE OF GLOBALIZATION AND GEOPOLITICAL  
TURMOIL - NEW CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TRADE, INVESTMENT, SECURITY, AND DEFENCE**

### **THEME**

The contemporary international order was built on the belief that the liberalization of economic and commercial exchanges would ease tensions in international relations. This idea of *doux commerce*, inherited from Montesquieu and later echoed, each in their own way, by Kant, Ricardo, Smith, Bentham, and John Maynard Keynes, underpinned the creation of key institutions shaping today's global economy.

Cordell Hull, the architect of the GATT, U.S. Secretary of State from 1933 to 1944 and Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 1945, tirelessly advocated for trade that was as free as possible, non-discriminatory and unobstructed, as a pillar of peace. Robert Schuman launched the European project convinced that shared production of coal and steel would lay the foundation for an economic union that would render any future armed conflict between France and Germany unthinkable.

The years following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War brought the creation of the World Trade Organization, unprecedented flows of global capital, and the rise of global value chains. For more than 75 years, we lived in a relative *Pax Mercuria*, in which peace, security, trade, and investment moved in harmony.





That era, the era of *doux commerce* and democratic peace, has come to an end, or at least has been suspended.

Many heads of state and government now openly state the obvious: we live in a divided and dangerous world. In Ukraine, Gaza, and Iran, nuclear powers resort to force with little regard for international law. Greenland, the Panama Canal, the South China Sea, Taiwan, the Arctic, territorial ambitions are increasingly visible. Across Central Africa, the Red Sea, Kashmir, Myanmar, Venezuela, Afghanistan, and Iraq, conflicts persist while the UN Security Council remains powerless. Collective security alliances such as NATO are weakened. Several governments are investing heavily to expand their military capabilities.

A striking convergence, or coincidence, of history: this rise in geostrategic tensions coincides with an unprecedented tariff war. The United States, once the leading architect of a commercial system that served its interests better than anyone else's, has embraced a protectionism reminiscent of the late 19th century. Access to the U.S. market is now conditional, negotiated deal by deal, linked to promises of investment or guarantees of access to critical minerals, or tied to new regimes governing energy, digital trade, or semiconductors.

The relationship between trade and investment on the one hand, and peace and security on the other, has fundamentally changed. Today, discussions revolve around security exceptions, trade wars, sanctions, and the instrumentalization of trade as a foreign policy weapon. In an era of global value chains, where one economy depends on another for energy, natural resources, or high-value-added products, many trading nations now favour *secure trade* over *free trade*.

In this environment, the rule of law is strained. The most-favoured-nation principle is frequently violated. Questions about the compatibility of bilateral and regional agreements with the multilateral trading system have faded into the background. Bans on quantitative restrictions resurface episodically. Preferences for developing countries have again become conditional. Dispute-settlement procedures vary widely. The contours of the national security exception are increasingly difficult to draw. Investigations underlying anti-dumping measures, countervailing duties, and safeguards appear optional.

Our world is changing rapidly. Globalization is not ending, it is transforming. The place of *doux commerce* is shifting. The role of the rule of law is no longer the same. International relations are being rebuilt on new foundations shaped by a new geostrategic reality. They are taking a security-oriented turn. The objects of trade are changing. Corridors of trade are changing. Places of trade are changing. Agreements, treaties, partnerships, and alliances are changing in form and purpose.







The conference **New Connections Between Trade, Investment, Security, and Defence** is anchored in legal scholarship but aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the redefinition of the links between economic and military sovereignty. It welcomes proposals from law, political science, and economics.

## TOPICS

*Topics may include, but are not limited to:*

- Tariff war – legal, economic, or political impacts
- Economic vassalization strategies, territorial claims
- Redefining the WTO's role, new multilateralism, plurilateralism
- Economic sanctions, embargoes, boycotts, emergency measures
- Collective security, national security, economic security
- New regionalism, new trade agreements, sectoral agreements, mini-deals
- Military alliances, security cooperation agreements, arms trade, rearmament policies
- Bilateral investment treaties, investment-screening mechanisms, new international investment contracts, strategic investment
- International dispute settlement
- New alliances, new partnerships, redefinition of value chains
- Friendshoring, reshoring, nearshoring, de-risking
- Digital trade, cybersecurity, data protection, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrencies, emerging risks
- Border security
- Trade in critical minerals, rare earths, semiconductors
- Energy trade, energy and strategic dependence





## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Case studies, comparative analyses, and innovative theoretical or methodological approaches are particularly encouraged.

**Paper proposals** (maximum 500 words) must be submitted no later than **January 10, 2026 at 11:59 PM (UTC-05:00)** via the form available here: [FORM](#).

Presentations may be delivered in **French or English**.

Remote presentations (via Zoom or Teams) will be accepted, though in-person participation is preferred.

Conference proceedings will be published.

## SUPPORT FOR SELECTED AUTHORS

The Research Chair on the New Challenges of Economic Globalization will cover the expenses for one author per accepted paper.

The Chair will also cover three hotel nights (September 30, October 1–2, 2026) as well as meals and the conference reception.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **December 1, 2025 – January 10, 2026:** Submission period via the [FORM](#)
- **January 20, 2026:** Notification of accepted proposals
- **September 1, 2026:** Deadline for submission of visual materials (PowerPoint).  
Instructions will be provided to accepted authors.
- **September 30, October 1–2, 2026:** Conference at Université Laval (Québec, Canada)







## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### **Richard OUELLET**

Full Professor - Faculty of Law - Laval University (Canada); Holder of the Research Chair on the new challenges of economic globalisation; Member of the École supérieure d'études internationales

### **Abdelkhaleq BERRAMDANE**

Professor Emeritus at the University of Tours (France); Former legal expert at the European Parliament

### **LY Van Anh, LL.D**

Deputy Director, Research Chair on the New Challenges; of Economic Globalisation; Faculty of Law - Laval University (Canada)

### **Sébastien MANCIAUX**

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### **Michel TROCHU**

Professor Emeritus at the University of Tours (France); Former legal expert to the European Parliament; Arbitrator with the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre « les Pionniers » Tunis

### **TRAN Thi Thuy Duong**

Professor and Dean of Faculty of International Law at Ho Chi Minh City University of Law (Vietnam)

### **NGUYEN Ngoc Ha**

Director of the FTU Institute for Creative Research, Professor of Faculty of Law, Foreign Trade University (Viet Nam); Associated Researcher at the NEME Chair, Université Laval (Canada)

### **Émilie DELCHER**

Associate Professor, Nantes University, Law and Social Change (UMR 6297) (France)

## PUBLICATION OF THE CONFERENCES

These conferences are part of the cycle of international conferences organised or co-organised by Michel Trochu and Abdelkhaleq Berramdane:

Phnom Penh - Cambodia (2017); Tours - France (2018); Ho Chi Minh City - Vietnam (2019); Chiang Mai - Thailand (2019) - Tours - France (2021) instead of Rabat due to Covid 19; Salvador de Bahia - Brazil (2022); Hanoi - Vietnam (April 2023); Ho Chi Minh City - Vietnam (October 2023); Tours – Nantes – Viet Nam (April 2025); and Québec – Canada (october 2026).

All the proceedings of these conferences have been published by 4 different publishers: Bruylant, a Belgian publisher; in French and English in special issues of the Revue de Droit des Affaires Internationales/ International Business Law Journal edited by Sweet & Maxwell, an English publisher; in French and English by Presses de l'Université Laval (Canada) and in English by the Vietnamese Journal Legal Sciences (VJLS).

**The proceedings of this conference will be published in a collectif book by the Presses de l'Université Laval (Canada).**

