Parallel to the growing trend of trade liberalization, the use of temporary trade barriers (aka administered or contingent protection), such as antidumping and countervailing duties, or safeguards, is on the rise, with antidumping measures being among the most intensively used forms of trade restrictions. Such use of trade policy instruments has been particularly important in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Despite avoiding blatant protectionism as the world experienced in the 1930s, several countries have been tilting the playing field in favor of local firms. This has been especially evident in the case of the recent “trade war” between the US and China, which has also involved several other trade partners across the world.

The impact of trade policy on firm performance is the central issue discussed in the 14th meeting of the International Study Group of Export and Productivity (ISGEP), convened by the University of Trento in September 2019. In this occasion, the conference organizers and the Editors of Economia Politica - Journal of Analytical and Institutional Economics launch a call for papers for a Special Section of the journal focusing on Trade Policy and Firm Performance. The Special Section aims at bringing together contributions that provide novel insights on the effects of trade policy, and antidumping measures in particular, on the behavior of either protected import-competing firms or foreign companies targeted by these trade policies. Given the large degree of heterogeneity that characterizes firms within sectors, and even products within the same firm, the impact of these policy interventions is likely to be very different across firms and products. As such, the Special Section aims at focusing particularly on contributions based on micro-level data that shed light on aspects related to the following questions: How do temporary trade barriers affect the size and direction of trade flows? Do firms respond to these policy shocks by modifying the price and/or the quality of the products they manufacture and trade? Do these measures have spillover effects that go beyond the targeted products? Despite their importance for firm performance, the way these trade restrictions shape production and export activities across products and firms remains poorly understood.
The Editorial Committee will particularly welcome papers on topics such as (but not limited to):

- The effects of temporary trade barriers on firm prices and quality;
- The implications of import protection for input and output choices of domestic and foreign firms;
- Trade policy, export performance and productivity growth;
- Import competition, protectionism and job market outcomes;
- The interaction between global value chain linkages and trade protection policies.

The Special Section will comprise (around) six original papers, with a focus on empirical contributions using firm-level or plant-level data. The Editorial Committee, composed of the Guest Editors and the Associate Editor (Andrea Fracasso), will select the papers that meet the requirements of the Special Section and the Journal, and will send them to two anonymous referees for the standard peer-review process.

Submissions should be sent through the online system at the link https://www.editorialmanager.com/epol/default.aspx, selecting “Special Section” from the Menu.

The deadline for submissions is December 10th, 2019

Proposed Timeline

- Submission: December 10th, 2019
- First revision: April 17th, 2020
- Reply and Second revision: June 31st, 2020
- Finalization: July 31st, 2020