The Evolution of Global Production Networks

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CURRENT RESEARCH
Realizing how global production networks affect individual firm performance

The world has become increasingly connected and globalized in the last two decades. However, we still have a rudimentary understanding of who wins and who loses from these changes. Dr. Andrew Bernard, of Dartmouth College, is interested in the interaction between globalization and businesses. His research focuses on the decisions of individual firms, recognizing that they are making the key decisions about where and what to produce and what prices to charge. As one of the top 100 most highly cited economists and the first researcher to introduce firms into the academic field of international trade, he has had remarkable success in asking new questions and finding solutions that greatly affect our world. His early research examined which firms export and how they perform once they have engaged in international markets. Policymakers and academics suspect that cross-border supply chains play important roles in determining firm performance and the well-being of consumers around the world. Dr. Bernard's research is the first to systematically examine the causes and consequences of these connections.

Dr. Bernard collaborates with researchers around the world in a number of distinct teams which tackle particular research questions. While his approach is unorthodox, as he starts at the bottom and builds up the analysis from the level of the firm rather than modeling industries and countries, he is able to provoke a completely different set of research questions. Better questions are the key to a better understanding of how prosperity can be spread to the global economy. Firms that engage in international trade are high performers and few in number. By understanding how such firms interact with each other before they...