This webinar argues that power relations along GVCs can be understood not only by examining the distribution of benefits, but also by exploring the distribution of costs during periods of crises, such as the crisis brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Through original surveys conducted with apparel suppliers in March and July 2020, the webinar will explore how buyers not only abruptly cancelled orders without paying with devastating consequences for suppliers and their workers, but then, in the months that followed, proceeded to dramatically push down on prices, delay payments, and weaken contracts. A growing activist movement has reversed some of these adverse trends, but building back better will require a dramatic rethinking of the global architecture that gave rise to such unequal power relations in GVCs.

The opening lecture by Prof. Anner will launch the conversation with attending participants, who are invited to share their views and ongoing research. Background reports to the webinar are available online:

Abandoned? The Impact of Covid-19 on Workers and Businesses at the Bottom of Global Garment Supply Chains
Leveraging Desperation: Apparel Brands’ Purchasing Practices during Covid-19

To enroll to the meeting and receive the ZOOM link to connect please register at https://forms.gle/L8bckJRnNbtBeVy18

Learn more about the GVC Conversation Series at sase.org