

SASE Network

(Global Value Chains)

GVC Conversations 2021 Webinar Series

March 25th, 2pm CET

Squeezing Suppliers and Workers: The Unequal Distribution of Costs along GVCs during the Covid-19 Pandemic



Mark Anner

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Director, Center for Global Workers' Rights
The Pennsylvania State University ([website](#))*

Chaired by Cornelia Staritz

(Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna)

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](https://www.sase.org)