Handbook on Global Value Chains

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Global value chains (GVCs) are a key feature of the global economy in the 21st century. They show how international investment and trade create cross-border production networks that link countries, firms and workers around the globe. This Handbook describes how GVCs arise and vary across industries and countries, and how they have evolved over time in response to economic and political forces. With chapters written by leading interdisciplinary scholars, the Handbook unpacks the key concepts of GVC governance and upgrading, and explores policy implications for advanced and developing economies alike.

‘Finally, a Handbook of global value chains. This collection establishes the state of the art in knowledge on the industrial form – the GVC – that has transformed capitalism for better and worse and which is at the centre of contemporary scholarship and policy debates on economic development, distributive justice and international trade. This is an essential collection of critical contributions that covers the micro and macro dimensions of the global value chain, including implications for gender equality, technological innovation and social activism. I guarantee that I (and my students) will be using this volume as a go-to reference book for years to come.’


‘This is the book on global value chains. With contributions from many leading lights of the GVC approach, and rising star early career academics, it provides a comprehensive understanding of the analysis of power, governance and distributive outcomes of globalisation in trade and production, and identifies key challenges for GVC research in the 21st century.’

– Khalid Nadvi, University of Manchester, UK

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