



Master Thesis

“Heterogeneity in MNEs’ (re-)actions to political risks”

Background

Current international political events underline the importance of proper risk management for multinational corporations. Recently, increasing fear has emerged about a potential military conflict between China and Taiwan. For corporations, it's actually impossible to predict what might happen in case such a potential conflict materializes since today's world and economies are highly interconnected. As such, companies often want to prepare for those events, e.g., by making new location choices. While, for instance, the British pharma company AstraZeneca planned to spin off its China business, other companies decided to even increase their business activity in the currently second-largest economy in the world. This thesis seeks to examine how publicly listed German MNEs differ in their (re-)actions they undertake considering political risks, whereas the emphasis particularly lies on global or regional (geo-)political events. By thoroughly juxtaposing the different paths companies take with respect to internationalization in a certain industry, the thesis provides insights into how these companies make use of portfolio changes to safeguard against political risks and eventually sustain in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Introductory Readings

- Meyer, K. E., & Li, C. (2022). The MNE and its subsidiaries at times of global disruptions: An international relations perspective. *Global Strategy Journal*, 12(3), 555–577. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gsj.1436>.
- Luo, Y. Illusions of techno-nationalism. *J Int Bus Stud* **53**, 550–567 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41267-021-00468-5>.
- Vertinsky, I., Kuang, Y., Zhou, D. et al. The political economy and dynamics of bifurcated world governance and the decoupling of value chains: An alternative perspective. *J Int Bus Stud* **54**, 1351–1377 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41267-023-00597-z>.

Tasks and Goals

This master thesis is closely related to the current research of the chair, and you will conduct your analyses in close collaboration with the doctoral students. The thesis will be based on a case study-like empirical methodology to examine the internationalization paths of German MNEs. You will especially review relevant literature, analyze annual reports, and track changes in MNEs over time. Based on the data that you gather, you will undertake empirical analyses to reveal path differences in internationalization strategies of these firms.

Requirements

- Good English skills
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Excel
- Independent, reliable, and diligent working style with an eye for detail
- Successful participation in one of the chair's modules (details of grade requirements etc. can be found on the website)

Details

- Supervisors Prof. Dr. Thomas Hutzschenreuter and Jan Müller
- Start Flexible / As of now
- Working time 6 months (after exposé acceptance)

Contact

If you are interested in writing your thesis at our chair or have questions about this topic, please contact Jan Müller (jan2.mueller@tum.de). Please send an email, including a tabular CV and current transcript of records (as one PDF file), to apply for a master thesis. We are looking forward to working together with you!