



THE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Inequality, Geography and Global Value Chains

Edited by
Jong Min Lee
J. Eduardo Ibarra-Olivo
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The Academy of International Business

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Foreword

The Academy of International Business—United Kingdom & Ireland chapter (AIB UK&I) has a long-standing and productive collaboration with Palgrave Macmillan in producing an annual research volume. The book series is dedicated to publishing cutting-edge research in International Business (IB) that is of contemporary relevance and at the cusp of conceptual and empirical development. The first volume was published in 1996 and the current, 29th volume, marks the outcome of a subtle, yet important, change in editorial policy. With the inauguration of our roles as book series editors, the annual volumes have taken an increasing focus and shift towards collections of outputs around specific themes where chapters are closely linked and intrinsically connected.

The book *Inequality, Geography and Global Value Chains* embraces this shift beautifully around a theme that shows the dynamics in the IB field and the accelerating embrace of socio-political challenges, including those outlined in the sustainable development goals and the complex interaction between simultaneously expanding and shrinking attention to economic geographies and economic development outcomes. Geography matters and is very much intertwined with the institutional environment which also shapes the value chains the firms are part of. The geographical location of value chain activities, and how the “value” is distributed across countries, is again a very contemporary topic—which is something the chapters of this book show very well.

With ten chapters, organized into three parts, including Part I “Inequality and Institutions”, Part II “Geography” and Part III “Global Value Chains”, the editors compile a set of highly readable meso- and firm-level chapters. These help to understand IB phenomena through a post-COVID lens and provide a sense of realities that cannot yet be seen clearly through the fog of contemporary struggles.

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Are Multinational Enterprises Capable of and/or Responsible for Combating Rising Inequality?

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1 The Background to This Volume

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