

# Trade Cooperation

The Purpose, Design and Effects of  
Preferential Trade Agreements

WORLD TRADE FORUM

Edited by **Andreas Dür** and **Manfred Elsig**



CAMBRIDGE

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ANDREAS DÜR  
MANFRED ELSIG



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## TRADE COOPERATION

### The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements

Preferential trade agreements (PTAs) have been proliferating for more than two decades, with the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and a Trans-Pacific Partnership being just the tip of the iceberg. This volume addresses some of the most pressing issues related to the surge in these agreements. It includes chapters written by leading political scientists, economists and lawyers who theoretically and empirically advance our understanding of trade agreements. The key theme is that PTAs vary widely in terms of design. The authors provide explanations of why we see these differences in design and whether and how these differences matter in practice. The tools for understanding the purposes and effects of PTAs that are offered will guide future research and inform practitioners and trade policy experts about progress in the scientific inquiry into PTAs.

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