1) Research Question
How does the EU resolve tensions concerning economic and non-economic objectives in the EU’s international trade law and policy, while, at the same time, being democratically accountable?

2) Main challenges
Tensions exist, but what matters is that actors differ in terms of the weight to be given to non-economic objectives:
- Differences among EU institutions
- Discordance among EU member states
- Discordance among governments, industry, and NGOs
- Gaps between the EU and non-EU third states/jurisdictions

3) Concepts
- Democratic accountability within the EU
- The EU’s international regulatory power
- Reception within the EU’s trading partners

4) Methodology
Analysis of legal and political narratives embedded in the EU’s trade-related instruments and practices
- Normative assessment on the basis of EU’s legal frameworks & international norms
- Open interviews and ethnographic fieldwork with international trade actors (EU, NGOs, Industry)

5) Legitimacy vs Effectiveness (from theoretical and empirical findings)
- Effectiveness: how non-trade objectives in the EU’s trade instruments are given effect and have led to behavioral changes
- Legitimacy from the EU’s constitutional perspectives
- Legitimacy from the third country’s perspectives

6) Distinctive elements
- Promotion of human rights, sustainability, and international security through the EU’s international trade instruments

7) Outcomes/Conclusions
The EU’s attempts to resolve normative and political tensions and dilemmas:
- (1) Create deliberative space in which different stakeholders express their weight given to non-economic objectives;
- (2) Test the global ambition and impact of the EU’s regulatory power;
- (3) Perpetuate regulatory uncertainty to accommodate different viewpoints.
- (4) Fail to prevent social and environmental harms in the Global South

8) Trust
- Consultation and information exchange, not only among EU members, but also between the EU and international partners