
Martin Franz and Nicolas Schlitz

Institute of Geography
Osnabrück University
Martin.Franz@uos.de
Nicolas.Schlitz@uos.de
Value Chain approaches

- *Commodity Chain* (Hopkins/Wallerstein 1977)
- *Commodity Systems* (Friedland et al. 1981; Friedland 2005)
- *Systems of Provision* (Fine 1993; Fine/Leopold 1993)
- *Filière* (Lenz 1997; Raikes et al. 2000)
- *Commodity Circuits* (Cook/Crang 1996; Cook et al. 2000)
- *Global Commodity Chains* (Gereffi/Korzeniewicz 1994; Gereffi 1999)
- *Global Value Chains* (Gereffi et al. 2005; Gibbon/Ponte 2005)
- *Global Produktion Networks* (Henderson et al. 2002; Coe et al. 2008)
- …
COE et al. (2008: 274) define a production network as “the nexus of interconnected functions, operations and transactions through which a specific product or service is produced, distributed and consumed. A global production network is one whose interconnected nodes and links extend spatially across national boundaries and, in so doing, integrates parts of disparate national and subnational territories.”

GPNs are economic, social, cultural and political phenomena.

(Dicken 2011: 60, modified)
Global Production Network

Analytical Categories
- Power
  - Corporative
  - Collective
  - Institutional
- Value
  - Creations
  - Enhancement
  - Capture
- Embeddedness
  - Territorial
  - Network
  - Societal

Analytical Dimensions
- Firms
  - Ownership
  - „Architecture“
- Institutions
  - Governmental
  - para-governmental
  - non-governmental
- Networks
  - „Architecture“
  - Governance
  - Co-ordination
- Sectors
  - Technologies
  - Products
  - Markets

(Own figure based on Henderson et al. 2002: 448 and Hess 2004)
Case studies that use GVC / GPN

- oil industry (Bridge 2008)
- e-waste recycling (Lepawski and Billah 2011)
- ecological upgrading in the car production (Reps and Braun 2012)
- endangered plant species (Pauls and Franz 2013)
- trade with organic food (Bernzen and Braun 2014)
- ...

- integrated analysis and policy-oriented reflection of the “three-way mutual interactions among water, energy and food” (Scott et al. 2015: 18).
- addresses the complexity of the crisis dynamics of socio-ecological relations through the operationalization of links between the most vital resources in terms of human livelihoods and ecosystems functions.
- provides a much more nuanced understanding of society-nature interactions beyond the limited category of resources while still reducing the complexity and multiplicity of society-nature relations to an extent suitable for outcome oriented analysis

![Diagram of Water-Energy-Food Nexus](image-url)
WEF-Nexus in a globalizing World

⇒ Globalization as complex social, economic, political phenomenon

- Limited analytical and conceptual tools for the analysis of the driving forces of Globalization within the WEF Nexus debate
- Tendency to reproduce territorial, bounded spatial categories – like the nation-state – within the WEF-Nexus debate

⇒ GPN provides an analytical and conceptual tool that potentially enables the understanding of transnational networks of flows of products, value and the underlying governance structures

- Interlinking of system & network approaches requires scrutiny
Value
Creations
Enhancement
Capture

Power
Corporative
Collective
Institutional

Embeddedness
Territorial
Network
Societal

Risks
Economic
Product
Regulatory
Resistance
Environmental

Analysis

(own figure based on Henderson et al. 2002: 448; Hess 2004; Dicken 2011: 60; Yeung/Coe 2015)
Conclusion

- Studies that use GPN to analyze the interrelations between economic networks & environmental concerns consider the role of resources only in a superficial way.

- There are only limited analytical & conceptual tools for the analysis of the driving forces of globalization within WEF-Nexus literature.

- A combination of the GPN approach with the WEF nexus approach thus has the potential to be a basis to overcome shortcomings in both strands of research.


