

# KU TRADE WAR LAB SPEAKER SERIES

Friday, November 6, 2020 @11:30am-12:30pm CDT

## FOREIGN LOBBYING THROUGH DOMESTIC SUBSIDIARIES

---



**Dr. Jieun Lee**, University at Buffalo,  
SUNY

**Abstract:** Do multinational corporations (MNCs) have no influence over host governments after investments are made? I challenge the obsolescing bargain theory by documenting foreign lobbying through US-based subsidiaries. I identify the global ultimate owners of all firms that filed with the Lobbying Disclosure Act in 2015-2016, and find that nearly 20% of domestic corporate lobbying spending come from US subsidiaries with majority foreign ownership. In fact, I find that these subsidiaries lobby more often and spend more on lobbying than American

multinationals, controlling for firm size, industry, and other means of political influence. I also show that US subsidiaries concentrate lobbying on issue areas that impact the foreign investment. These findings suggest that the Foreign Agents Registration Act captures only part of foreign lobbying activities, and that foreign MNCs in fact actively influence US policies post-investment.

Please **RSVP** to receive webinar login here:

<https://forms.gle/zpgeMfKojwB81JdNA>