

**UABS Research Symposium on
Sustainability
Friday 13 November, 2015**

**09.30 – 09.50: Verifying
sustainability in supply chains**

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Applying Global Value Chains (GVC) in IB Research

- Research on global value chains and issues related to sustainability in supply chains.
- Global value chains (GVCs) form the connection between international trade and production and their governance (Gereffi, 2005).
- A powerful analytical tool.
- Participation in GVCs is essential for firms to build positions and to upgrade, that is move between stages of the value chain to capture more value, and to both develop and drive their own GVC (Benson-Rea and Stringer, 2015).

Recent research on Economic, Social and Environmental upgrading

- BENSON-REA, M, STRINGER, C A. "Small country specialization in global value chains: evidence from the cut flower industry" *International Journal of Business and Economics*, 14(1), p43-62, 2015.
- KHATTAK, A, STRINGER, C A, BENSON-REA, M, HAWORTH, N. "**Environmental** upgrading of apparel firms in global value chains: Evidence from Sri Lanka", *Competition & Change*, 19, (4), p317-335, 2015.

Cont'd

- KHATTAK, A, STRINGER, C A, BENSON-REA, M, "The Role of Buying Firms in **Environmental** Upgrading: the Sialkot Sportswear Cluster, Pakistan", 29th Australia and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Conference, Queenstown, New Zealand, 2-4 December 2015.
- KHATTAK, A, HAWORTH, N, STRINGER, C A, BENSON-REA, M, "Does **Economic** Upgrading Automatically Translate into **Social** Upgrading? Evidence from the Apparel Industry", for submission to Critical Perspectives on International Business, 2015.

New research

- Hira, A and Benson-Rea, M, "Governing labour standards in the apparel industry" (Palgrave Macmillan, Fall 2016). A new co-edited book project to examine how to improve labour standards in the global apparel industry.
- Chapters invited that examine governance models after the Rana Plaza disaster and attempts to create a new mixed private-public model through two main consortia.

- Explores the prospects of a mixed model as opposed to one where public or non-profit (domestic or internationally-led) or private (corporations) exercise leadership.
- Many companies looking to these experiments for fresh ideas to resolve basic worker safety issues in developing country apparel factories.
- Contribution to debates around labour standards governance, aim to include a set of recommendations of interest to policy and academics, in the non-profit and for profit sectors.