

Market Flows, Migration, and Territoriality: Managing Multi-Dimensional Complexity Amid the Challenges of Continuing “Fragmegration”

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Trends towards North American and global economic integration between the mid-1980s and mid-2000s have fostered the growth of supply and value chains that have blurred traditional national borders and created dynamic, but sectorally and regionally variable networks for investment, production, distribution, migration and labour markets. However, a series of economic and political shocks between 2000 and the present, combined with the ongoing evolution of North American and international economic governance, have greatly increased the challenges of facilitating and managing diverse cross-border flows of goods, services, people and capital at multiple levels of analysis. Consistent with Rosenau’s theory of “fragramegration” (2003), flows are contributing to the “deterritorialization” of policy formation in some areas, but also provoking countervailing pressures for the reassertion of national and sub-national governmental control in others. This paper summarizes major changes in key market flows since 1999 in four areas: national, regional and sectoral trade flows, investment and capital flows, labour market and migration flows, and national and regional border crossing data. It seeks to identify major and emerging governance challenges, both domestic and international, affecting these flows as a framework for the development of ongoing national studies as part of the larger Borders and Globalization project.