

## **Il Dipartimento di Economia Organizza il Seminario**

### **THE TRADE ORIGINS OF NATIONALIST PROTECTIONISM: IMPORT COMPETITION AND VOTING BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN EUROPE**

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**Abstract:**

Based on an extensive dataset on voting behavior at the constituency and the individual level, and trade data disaggregated at the regional and industry level, for almost all Western European countries, we show how voters in areas more exposed to competition of Chinese imports tend to vote in a more protectionist and nationalist direction. We instrument import shocks to Europe with Chinese imports to the United States: this gets around the issue of possible endogeneity of imports to economic conditions, and allows us to estimate the causal effect of the surge in the role of Chinese goods in global markets.

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**La partecipazione è aperta a tutti gli interessati**