

Theme NAHSS '23 Reinventing Growth & Globalisation

A Desire for Growth

After centuries of technological progress and innovation in international cooperation, the world has reached an unprecedented level of globalisation. New technologies, such as 5G and the cloud, have made our world's economies more and more interconnected, efficient and interdependent. This new level of global integration has accelerated knowledge sharing, cultural exchange and the ability to access markets globally. Especially China has contributed, on average, one-third of total economic global growth since 2005. As a result, a higher intensity of R&D, innovation and capital flow is the new standard and fresh opportunities arise each day. Yet, the world's system of integrated globalisation and our desire for continuous economic growth is not without negative externalities.



“The benefits of trade and diversifying demand are still there to be had. Yet, we must adapt and change to continue thriving in a global economy and to remain an anchor of stability and peace.”

– Christine Lagarde,
President of the European Central Bank

The Globalisation Paradox

Environmental damage, inequalities, overconsumption, and disrupted value chains are only a few examples of the problems we face. The process of globalisation has led to a race to the bottom where corporations compete globally to exploit the lowest cost human and environmental outputs. Furthermore, biodiversity around the world has been declining at an unprecedented rate by the exploitation of land and water resources. On top of this are the consequences of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, which have triggered a once-in-a-generation re-imagining of the global economic system in boardrooms and governments. A change in global demand is happening and value chains are being transformed everywhere you look. The costs, risks and impact of global operations are shifting and companies need to re-evaluate their strategies for operating globally. Market outcomes should be in line with societal preferences, externalities should be reduced, and unequal outcomes need to be corrected.

The Role of the NAHSS

Although globalisation has enabled a boost in prosperity and labour opportunities, especially in China and elsewhere in Asia, its long-term sustainability is not a given. Structural change is needed. This is why we will look at a new kind of globalisation, which focuses on resilience and sustainable innovation, not mere hyper-efficiency. The NAHSS 2023 will prepare the next delegation of excellent students for this new era of growth.