

## **CIFREM SEMINARS**

# **Using Complex Networks Analysis to Assess the Evolution of International Economic Integration: the Cases of East Asia and Latin America (with J. Reyes e G. Fagiolo)**

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***2 PM - DISA seminar room***

***Faculty of Economics- Via Inama, 5***

*This paper exploits recently-developed indicators based on network analysis to investigate the pattern of international integration followed by East Asian countries, and compare it to the Latin American performance. Standard trade openness indicators fall short of portraying the peculiarity of the Asian experience, and of explaining why other emerging markets with similar characteristics have been less successful over the last 25 years. Our analysis offers an alternative perspective on the issue by taking into account the whole structure of international trade relationships and by determining both the position of countries in the world trade network and its evolution over time. Our study indicates that East Asian countries are more integrated into the world economy, as they have moved over the past 25 years from the periphery of the network towards its core. In contrast, the LATAM region seems to be losing presence within the network or, at best, its integration has remained constant. Our results support the idea, recently emerged in the literature, that not only the degree of openness, but also the number and identity of trade partners matter for development and growth.*