GVC Participation and Regional Income Distribution

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The effect of Global Value Chains (GVCs) on regional income inequalities within countries is still largely unexplored in the literature. This paper aims to fill this gap, by presenting a theoretical model able to apportion the Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg's effects at the regional level. In our approach, the distributive element of the effects of GVCs participation on intra-country regional inequalities is represented by the heterogeneity in the functional specialization of regions. Empirical results show that, in offshoring countries, increasing GVCs participation is likely to worsen intra-country regional inequalities, while the opposite holds for those countries receiving production phases from abroad.