

## **Abstract**

The United Kingdom's (UK) decision to leave the European Union (EU) created widespread uncertainty as to how it would impact the trading relationship between the two markets given the increased interconnectivity and integration in the era of global value chains (GVCs). The United Kingdom has consistently exhibited comparative advantages in high value-added service activities in GVC trade, with the European Union being the largest importer of UK services year-to-year. Moreover, the UK is highly integrated into EU value chains, and the increased non-tariff costs now associated with trade between the two markets contributes to the uncertainty regarding how Brexit will impact the UK's GVC specialization structures in the long term. Using network analysis, this thesis analyzes the UK's position in both the global and EU-UK value-added networks to determine whether or not the nature of trade in services has provided the United Kingdom with some level of resiliency against Brexit shock in its specialized sectors. The proliferation of GVC trade after 2000 has contributed to an overall decline in UK service centrality in both networks. However, Brexit's indirect impacts on EU-UK value chains is evident in the rise in connectivity of Ireland's knowledge-based service sectors relative to the EU market following the referendum.