

## **Varieties of Regionalisation: The Impact of Regionalism on the Car Industry in the EU**

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This paper presents preliminary findings of my dissertation which explores how political regionalism impacts regionalisation by car manufacturers in different regional regulatory regimes. *Regionalisation* signifies the regional (re)organisation of firms' activities within a supranational, regulatory regime (e.g. EU, NAFTA); political *regionalism* is the formal integration process created by states by means of treaties and/or institutions. The impact of regionalism is examined on some of the more complex indicators of regionalisation: locational choices. It is argued that a combination of negative and positive integration effects and region-specific legacies inherently lead to a decentralised/fragmented-type regionalisation in the EU. The firm-level analysis of 'home region' and 'foreign' firms together with the strong role of negative integration effects suggest that the process could lead to similar outcomes in different type/intensity regionalisms, i.e. NAFTA.