

The background features a stylized globe with a network overlay. The globe is composed of a grid of points connected by lines, creating a mesh-like structure. The colors are primarily blue and green, with a glowing effect. The globe is positioned on the left side of the cover, with the right side fading into the background.

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF FIRMS

THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONAL DISTANCE
ON LOCATION AND ENTRY MODE

LAURA VANOLI PARIETTI

Internationalization of Firms: The Role of Institutional Distance on Location and Entry Mode

Internationalization of Firms: The Role of Institutional Distance on Location and Entry mode

By

Laura Vanoli Parietti

University of Fribourg, Switzerland



United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2017

Copyright © 2017 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78714-135-3 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-78714-134-6 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-78714-305-0 (Epub)



ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To my husband Simone and my children

Acknowledgments

Immeasurable appreciation and deepest gratitude for the help and support are extended to the following persons who in one way or another have contributed in making this study possible.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisors Prof. Dr. Philippe Gugler and Prof. Dr. Laurent Donzé for their continuous support during my research, for their insightful comments and encouragement, but also for the hard question which incentivised me to widen my research from various perspectives. Their guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this book. Their complementarity allowed me to benefit from the recognized background of Prof. Dr. Gugler in International Business theories and from the extended knowledge of Prof. Dr. Donzé in statistical and econometric methods.

Besides my advisors, I would like to thank the president of the thesis jury, Prof. Dr. Sergio Rossi, for the time he spent to read and discuss my study.

My sincere thanks also goes to Dr. Spyros Arvanitis and his assistant Andrin Spescha from the KOF Institute, ETH Zurich, who provided me an opportunity to conduct a survey designed especially for my thesis and who gave access to the research facilities.

I am also indebted to the members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the 25th anniversary of the Swiss Bank Corporation at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Fribourg, for their award of a grant in 2016.

I also thank my colleagues from the Chair of Economic and Social Politics, Xavier and Michael, for the knowledge sharing and helpful discussions.

A special thanks goes to my family: my parents and my brother for supporting and encouraging me throughout writing this book. Last but not least, I would like to express appreciation to my beloved husband Simone for his unconditional support, for the stimulating discussions and for the sleepless nights we were working together. A special thanks to my children, Emma and Teo, who made my days more beautiful and gave me the strength to persevere, even in moments of uncertainty.

Contents

List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xv
List of Abbreviations	xix
Introduction	xxi
CHAPTER 1 Institutional Distance: Conceptualization and Measurements	1
1.1 Conceptualization: A Review	2
1.2 Operationalization: A Review	6
1.3 Measurements and Comparisons	8
1.3.1 Data and Methodology	8
1.3.1.1 Data	8
1.3.1.2 Approach 1: Unidimensional distance based on an composite measure creation	12
1.3.1.3 Approach 2: Multidimensional distance	15
1.3.1.4 Comparison of ID measures	17
1.3.2 Informal ID: Results and Discussions	18
1.3.2.1 PCA/FA results for the creation of an informal institutional index	18
1.3.2.2 Descriptive statistics of informal ID measures	19
1.3.2.3 Illustration of informal ID: The Swiss case	20
1.3.3 Formal ID: Results and Discussions	25
1.3.3.1 PCA/FA results for the creation of a formal institutional index	26
1.3.3.2 Descriptive statistics of formal ID measures	26
1.3.3.3 Illustration of formal ID: The Swiss case	28
1.4 Discussion of Results	34

CHAPTER 2	Institutional Distance, Location, and Entry Mode Choice: Theoretical Foundations	39
2.1	Role of Institutional Distance on Location Choice	42
2.1.1	Institutional Distance, Liability of Foreignness, and Internationalization Process	42
2.1.1.1	Definition of foreignness	42
2.1.1.2	Institutional distance, liability of foreignness, and legitimacy concerns	44
2.1.2	Institutional Distance and Learning Process	49
2.1.2.1	The stage approach	50
2.1.2.2	The network approach	52
2.1.3	Institutional Distance versus Institutional Quality	57
2.2	Role of Institutional Distance on Entry Mode Choice	58
2.2.1	Entry Mode Strategies	59
2.2.2	Institutional Distance and Firms' Entry Mode Strategies	61
2.2.2.1	Institutional distance and establishment choice	62
2.2.2.2	Institutional distance and ownership choice	64
2.2.3	Factors Reducing the Impact of ID on Entry Mode Choice	66
2.2.3.1	Types of experience	67
2.2.3.2	Networks	69
2.3	Theoretical Hypotheses: A Summary	71
CHAPTER 3	Institutional Distance and Location Choice of Swiss FDI: A Country-Level Analysis	75
3.1	Empirical Models and Methodology	76
3.2	Variables	80
3.2.1	Dependent Variable	80
3.2.2	Key Independent Variables	84
3.2.3	Control Variables	85
3.3	Results	87
3.3.1	Results for Models with Aggregate Measure of ID	88
3.3.2	Results for Models with Individual Dimensions of Informal ID	92
3.4	Sensitivity Analysis	98
3.5	Discussion of Results	100

CHAPTER 4	Institutional Distance, Location, and Entry Mode Choice of Swiss FDI: A Firm-Level Analysis	105
4.1	Methodology	105
4.2	Descriptive Analysis	107
4.2.1	Trends over the Period 2010–2014	107
4.2.2	Statistics on the Firm’s Largest FDI	110
4.3	Econometric Analysis	125
4.3.1	Empirical Models	125
4.3.2	Variables	130
4.3.2.1	Dependent variables	130
4.3.2.2	Key independent variables	130
4.3.2.3	Control variables	131
4.3.3	Results	133
4.3.3.1	Average marginal effects for establishment choice	133
4.3.3.2	Average marginal effects for ownership choice	144
4.3.3.3	Interrelated choice of establishment and ownership	154
4.4	Discussion of Results	156
	Conclusion	159
APPENDIX A	Country-Level Analysis: Results	165
APPENDIX B	Firm-Level Analysis: Results	177
APPENDIX C	KOF Questionnaire on Internationalization of Swiss Firms, 2014	189
	Bibliography	193
	Index	213

List of Figures

Introduction

Figure 1.	REM Model.	xxvi
Figure 2.	Share of Swiss OFDI Stocks	xxvii

Chapter 1

Figure 1.1.	Frequency of Informal ID Measures	21
Figure 1.2.	Cluster Dendrograms of Informal ID between Switzerland and Host Countries	22
Figure 1.3.	Maps of Informal ID between Switzerland and Host Countries	25
Figure 1.4.	Frequency of Formal ID Measures, 2013.	29
Figure 1.5.	Cluster Dendrograms of Formal ID between Switzerland and Host Countries, 2013.	30
Figure 1.6.	Maps of Formal ID between Switzerland and Host Countries, 2013	35

Chapter 2

Figure 2.1.	Representation of Business Network Embeddedness.	54
Figure 2.2.	Representation of Cluster Embeddedness.	56
Figure 2.3.	Hypotheses on the Relationship ID – Location Choice	71
Figure 2.4.	Hypotheses on the Relationship ID – Entry Mode (in Terms of Establishment and Ownership Choice).	72

Chapter 4

Figure 4.1.	Interaction Effects of International Experience on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode	141
Figure 4.2.	Interaction Effects of Host Country-Specific Experience on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode	142

Figure 4.3.	Interaction Effects of Acquisition Experience on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode . . .	143
Figure 4.4.	Interaction Effects of Greenfield Experience on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode	144
Figure 4.5.	Interaction Effects of Embeddedness in Business Networks on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode	145
Figure 4.6.	Interaction Effects of Embeddedness in Clusters on the Probability to Choose Greenfield as an Establishment Mode . . .	146
Figure 4.7.	Interaction Effects of International Experience on the Probability to Choose Partial Ownership	153
Figure 4.8.	Interaction Effects of Host Country-Specific Experience on the Probability to Choose Partial Ownership	154
Figure 4.9.	Interaction Effects of Embeddedness in Business Networks on the Probability to Choose Partial Ownership	155
Figure 4.10.	Interaction Effects of Embeddedness in Clusters on the Probability to Choose Partial Ownership	156

List of Tables

Introduction

Table 1	Literature Review on ID: Research Fields. . .	xxiii
Table 2	Top 10 Home Countries by Outward FDI Stocks (2014).	xxviii
Table 3	Definition of Key Terms.	xxxi

Chapter 1

Table 1.1	Scott’s Conceptualization of Institutions.. .	2
Table 1.2	Descriptive Statistics of Hofstede Dataset (Status: January 2015)..	9
Table 1.3	Correlation Matrix of Hofstede’s Dimensions (Status: January 2015).	10
Table 1.4	Descriptive Statistics of WGI, 2013	11
Table 1.5	Correlation Matrix between WGI, 2013.. .	11
Table 1.6	Properties of Different Distance Measures..	17
Table 1.7	PCA/FA results for Hofstede’s Dimensions. .	19
Table 1.8	Descriptive Statistics of Different Informal ID Measures..	20
Table 1.9	Comparison of Hofstede’s Scores between Switzerland, Germany, and France (Status: January 2015)..	24
Table 1.10	PCA/FA Results for WGI, 2013.	27
Table 1.11	Descriptive Statistics of Different Formal ID Measures, 2013.	28

Chapter 2

Table 2.1	Domestic Density Index of Selected Swiss Firms, 2014.	44
Table 2.2	ID, LOF, and Internationalization.	48

Table 2.3	The Network Approach of Internationalization.	55
Table 2.4	Pros and Cons of Establishment Modes. . .	61
Table 2.5	ID, Host Country Institutional Uncertainty, and Related Firm's Strategies.	62
Chapter 3		
Table 3.1	Description of Variables.	78
Table 3.2	Descriptive Statistics of Swiss OFDI Stocks (in MM USD), 2007–2012.	82
Table 3.3	Percent Share of Swiss OFDI Stocks, Manufacturing, and Services, 2007–2012..	84
Table 3.4	Percent Share of Swiss OFDI Stocks, by World Region, 2007–2012.	84
Table 3.5	Results for Swiss OFDI Determinants, Considering Aggregate Measure of ID, RE Estimations.	89
Table 3.6	Results for Swiss OFDI Determinants, Considering Individual Dimensions of ID, RE Estimations.	94
Table 3.7	Overview of the Main Results for Swiss OFDI Location Determinants – Aggregate Informal and Formal ID.	100
Table 3.8	Overview of the Main Results for Swiss OFDI Location Determinants – Individual Informal Distances.	101
Chapter 4		
Table 4.1	KOF Survey 2014 – Respondent Sample by Sector and Firm Size.	106
Table 4.2	Host Country Where Most of the Projects Are Undertaken over the Period 2010–2014.	108
Table 4.3	Number of Projects abroad over the Period 2010–2014, by Sector and Firm Size. . . .	109
Table 4.4	Profitability of Investments over the Period 2010–2014, by Sector and Firm Size. . . .	110

Table 4.5	Entry Date of the Firm’s Largest Investment, by Sector and Firm Size (% Respondents).	111
Table 4.6	First Presence abroad, by Sector and Firm Size (% Respondents).	112
Table 4.7	Host Country Where Largest FDI Is Undertaken.	112
Table 4.8	Motivations of the Largest FDI, by Sector and Firm Size.	114
Table 4.9	Level of Experience at the Entry in the Host Country, by Sector and Firm Size. . .	116
Table 4.10	Established Business Relations in the Host Country before the Largest FDI.	118
Table 4.11	Types of Established Business Relations, by Sector and Firm Size.. . . .	119
Table 4.12	Largest FDI Took Place in a Cluster.. . . .	120
Table 4.13	Importance of Motivations to Invest in a Cluster.	121
Table 4.14	Importance of the Presence of Firms in Related Field on the Location Choice, by Sector and Firm Size.. . . .	121
Table 4.15	Entry Mode of the Largest FDI, by Sector and Firm Size (% Respondents).	123
Table 4.16	Importance of Similar Practices by Competitors in the Entry Mode Choice, by Sector and Firm Size.. . . .	124
Table 4.17	Description of Variables for Establishment and Ownership Determinants.	126
Table 4.18	Average Marginal Effects on Establishment Choice..	134
Table 4.19	Goodness-of-Fit Measures for Establishment Choice.	138
Table 4.20	Average Marginal Effects on Ownership Choice..	147

Table 4.21	Goodness-of-Fit Measures for Ownership Choice..	151
Table 4.22	Overview of the Main Results for Swiss Entry Mode Choice.	157
Appendix A		
Table A.1	Correlation Matrix of Variables..	166
Table A.2	Results for Swiss OFDI Determinants, Total Sample with Alternative ID Measures, RE Estimations..	167
Table A.3	Results for Swiss OFDI determinants, Manufacturing sample with alternative ID measures, RE estimations	170
Table A.4	Results for Swiss OFDI determinants, Services sample with alternative ID measures, RE estimations	173
Appendix B		
Table B.1	Correlation Matrix of Variables for Firm-Level Analysis.	178
Table B.2	Results for Determinants of Establishment Choice of Swiss Firms.	179
Table B.3	Results for Determinants of Ownership Choice of Swiss Firms.	183
Table B.4	Results for Determinants of Interrelated Choice (Ownership and Establishment) of Swiss Firms, Bivariate Probit Estimations.	186

List of Abbreviations

ED	Euclidean Distance
FA	Factor Analysis
(O)FDI	(Outward) Foreign Direct Investment
FE	Fixed Effect model
GCR	Global Competitiveness Report
GLOBE	Global Leadership and Organizational Behavior Effectiveness
IB	International Business
ICRG	Institutional Country Risk Guide
ID	Institutional Distance
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JV	Joint Venture
KOF	Konjunkturforschungsstelle (attached to ETH Zurich)
K&S	Kogut and Singh (1988)
KS	Kogut & Singh Distance
LOF	Liability of Foreignness
MD	Mahalanobis Distance
MNE	Multinational Enterprise
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLI	Ownership-Location-Internalization framework developed by Dunning (1981)
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
POLS	Pooled Ordinary Least Squares
RE	Random Effect model
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SNB	Swiss National Bank

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WCY	World Competitiveness Yearbook
WGI	World Governance Indicators
WOS	Wholly-owned subsidiary

Introduction

STUDY BACKGROUND

As the world becomes more and more globalized, distance separating countries seems to disappear (Cairncross, 1997; Friedman, 2005; O'Brien, 1992). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), globalization can be defined as “the increasing integration of economies around the world, particularly through the movement of goods, services, and capital across borders” (IMF, 2008, p. 2). IMF (2008) to add: “globalization implies that information and knowledge is dispersed and shared” (p. 2). Some scholars consider that globalization has led to the “*death of distance*” (Cairncross, 1997) or to the “*end of geography*” (O'Brien, 1992). Friedman (2005), in his book, uses the expression “*the world is flat*” that reflects the erasure of national borders and the full integration of world economies. In opposition to this view, some reputed scholars note that foreign direct investments (FDI) are primarily undertaken in host regions geographically and institutionally closer to the home country (Cantwell, 2009; Rugman & Oh, 2013). It follows that countries are more regionally integrated than globally integrated (Rugman & Verbeke, 2007). In his book “*World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It*,” Ghemawat (2011) considers that the world is “semiglobalized”: borders, differences, and distances still matter. Ghemawat suggests that the world can be described neither as not integrated nor as fully integrated. In the DHL Global Connectedness Index 2014, Ghemawat and Altman (2014) affirms that “the levels of globalization are much lower than the levels one would expect to see if borders and distance had ceased to matter. They are also significantly lower than most people’s intuitions” (p. 13). Thence, distances still matter in the internationalization process of firms.

As noted by Nachum and Zaheer (2005), “distance is fundamental in international business (IB) theory, and implicitly or explicitly occupies a central position in all its subfields” (p. 747). Distance between two countries is a multidimensional concept,

including not only a geographical dimension but also other dimensions related to the culture, the administrative, political, and economic aspects as shown by Ghemawat (2001) and its “CAGE” framework, as well as by Berry, Guillen, and Zhou (2010) and their nine dimensions of cross-national distance. In the last decade, Van Tulder (2010) notes that the research tends to be oriented toward the institutional and governance distance between countries. Many scholars have emphasized the role of institutions in the internationalization process of firms (Cantwell, Dunning, & Lundan, 2010; Dunning & Lundan, 2008; Van Hoorn, & Maseland, 2016). Recent articles in IB analyze institutions as a factor impacting FDI, especially from emerging countries,¹ whereas others focus on the role of institutions in the foreign entry mode choice.² Culture, that can be considered as an informal institution, is also widely analyzed in recent IB papers.³ As discussed, distance and institutions play an important role in IB. Thus, this book focuses more precisely on an aggregation of these two fundamental concepts, namely institutional distance (ID). A concise literature review on ID highlights different research fields in IB (see Table 1). The main research fields focus on the analysis of the relationship between ID and FDI location choice, as well as ID and entry modes. However, these studies report several weaknesses. The diversity of conceptualization and operationalization of ID leads to mixed results. Additionally, the studies in entry mode primarily focus on the ownership mode. Solely few studies investigate the relationship between institutional distance and establishment mode. A majority of studies investigate the effect of ID on location and entry mode choices for the manufacturing sector, neglecting the effect for the services sector, also noted by Morschett, Schramm-Klein, and Swoboda (2010). Moreover, based on a meta-analysis of 72 studies on entry mode choice, Morschett et al. (2010) suggest to “investigate the combined effect of different variables based on a multi-theoretical framework” (p. 72). For example, in a recent paper, Shaver (2013) suggests to investigate more deeply to what extent past entry mode choices can impact present and future entry

¹See Lu, Liu, Wright, and Filatotchev (2014), Williams and Grégoire (2015), Wu and Chen (2014), Meyer, Ding, Li, and Zhang (2014).

²See Chang, Kao, and Kuo (2014), Contractor, Lahiri, Elango, and Kundu (2014), De Villa, Rajwani, and Lawton (2015), Du and Boateng (2015).

³See Stahl and Tung (2015), Caprar, Devinney, Kirkman, & Caligiuri (2015), Avloniti and Filippaios (2014), De Jong and Van Houten (2014).

Table 1: Literature Review on ID: Research Fields.

Research fields	Period	Home	Host	Sector	ID Effect	
					Informal	Formal
<i>Legitimacy</i>						
Rottig and Reus (2008)	2000–2005	Various	US	nd	–*	–*
<i>Local isomorphism</i>						
Salomon and Wu (2012)	1978–2006	Various	US	Banks	+*	+*
<i>FDI location choice</i>						
Trevino and Mixon (2004)	1988–1999	Various	Latin America	nd		–*
Du (2009)	1980–2003	Japan	Various	Man-Serv		–*
Seyoum (2009)	2002	Various	Various	nd	–	–*
Wu (2009)	1956–2006	Various	US	Banks	–*	–*
Pogrebnyakov and Maitland (2011)	1995–2007	Various	Various	Serv	–*	+
Aleksynska and Havrylchuk (2013)	1996–2007	Various	Various	nd		–*
Cezar and Escobar (2015)	2004–2009	Various	Various	nd		–*
Kuncic and Jaklic (2013)	1990–2010	Various	Various	nd		–*
Choi, Lee, and Shoham (2016)	1981–2008	Various	US	nd	+*	Mixed
<i>Entry mode choice</i>						
(1) Ownership (partial)						
Yiu and Makino (2002)		Japan	Various	Man	+*	+*
Xu, Pan, and Beamish (2004)	1996	Japan	Various	nd	+*	+*
Demirbag, Glaister, and Tatoglu (2007)	as of 2003	Various	Turkey	Man-Serv	+*	
Kittilaksanawong (2009)	2000–2007	Taiwan	Various	Man	Mixed	Mixed
Arslan and Larimo (2010)	1990–2007	Finland	Various	nd	–*	+
Ando (2012)	2008	Japan	Various	Man	+*	+*

Table 1: *(Continued)*

Research fields	Period	Home	Host	Sector	ID Effect	
					Informal	Formal
Chang, Kao, Kuo, and Chiu (2012)	1999–2008	Japan	Various	Man-Serv	–*	–*
Ilhan Nas (2012)	1995–2003	Various	Turkey	Man-Serv	+*	+*
Elango, Lahiri, and Kundu (2013)	2001–2008	Various	BRIC	nd	+	+*
Owens, Palmer, and Zueva-Owens (2013)		UK	Various	Man	+	+
De Beule, Elia, and Piscitello (2014)	2001–2010	Various	Italy	Man		–*
(2) Establishment (Greenfield)						
Ionascu, Meyer and Erstin (2004)	1990–2000	Emerging countries	Various	Man	–*	+*
Estrin, Baghdasaryan, and Meyer (2009)	1990–2000	Various	Emerging countries	Man-Serv	+*	+*
Arslan and Larimo (2011)	1990–2006	Finland	Emerging countries	Man	+*	–*
(3) Completion of acquisitions						
Dikova, Sahib, and van Witteloostuijn (2010)	1981–2001	Various	Various	Serv	–*	–*
Meyer, Ding, Li, and Zhang (2011)	1982–2009	China	Various	nd		–*
Reis, Ferreira, and Santos (2013)	Conceptual				–	–
<i>Results of FDI</i>						
(1) Integration						
Parkhe (2003)	Conceptual				–	–
Mtar (2010)		France	UK	Man	Mixed	Mixed
Li, Jiang, and Shen (2016)	Survey	China	Various	Man-Serv	+*	+*
(2) Subsidiary performance						
Pattnaik and Choe (2007)		Korea	Various	Man	–*	–*

Table 1: (Continued)

Research fields	Period	Home	Host	Sector	ID Effect	
					Informal	Formal
(3) R&D / Product innovations						
Aguilera-Caracuel, Aragón-Correa, Hurtado-Torres, and Rugman (2012)		Various	Various	Man		—*
Anón Higón & Manjón Antolín (2012)	2002–2006	UK	Various		—*	—*
Van Den Waeyenberg and Hens (2012)	Case studies	Holland	Ghana	Man	—	—
Malik (2013)	1994–2005	Various	Various	Man	Mixed	Mixed
Wu (2013)		China	Various	Man	+*	+*

Notes: Sector can be either manufacturing (Man) or services (Serv). “nd” means that no differentiation between sectors has been taken into account. “+” means that the authors find a positive effect of ID, “—” a negative effect and “*” means that the effect is statistically significant at least at 10% level.

mode choices. This study attempts to fill in the gaps found in the literature, notably: to clearly argue the choice of ID measures, to distinguish between determinants of location and entry mode choice in manufacturing and services sectors, to consider the effect of ID on entry mode not only in terms of ownership choice but also in terms of establishment choice, and finally to empirically integrate the effects of variables based on different theoretical streams (especially organizational learning and network/cluster approaches).

The analysis of the location and entry mode choice is not arbitrary. It is based on the REM model developed by Liuhto and Jumpponen (2003) and composed of three elements: R for reason to internationalize, E for environmental choice, and M for modal choice. The three questions underlying these elements are *why*, *where*, and *how* firms internationalize, as shown in Figure 1. As noted by Liuhto and Jumpponen (2003), the REM model is a “simplistic theoretical tool for the analysis of internationalization” (p. 23). In fact, it omits the *what* firms internationalize. This question refers to the value chain activities (i.e., inbound logistics, operations, outbound logistics, marketing and

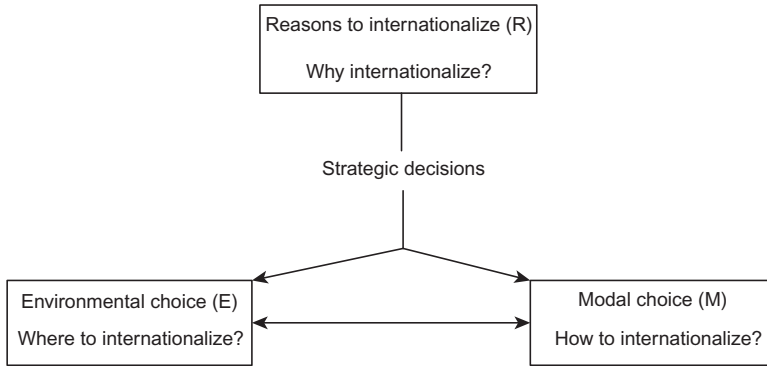


Figure 1. REM Model. *Source:* Based on Liuhto and Jumpponen (2003), p. 24.

sales, and service) (Porter, 2008, p. 75). However, this aspect cannot be explained theoretically by institutional distance, the central variable of this study. Thus, this book will focus on the impact of institutional distance on the two strategic decisions of location and entry mode, as in Xu and Shenkar (2002) – other determinants (e.g., the reasons to invest abroad) are considered as control variables.

In this context, the case of Switzerland is particularly relevant to analyze. First, Switzerland is listed in the top 20 home economies by outward FDI flows (UNCTAD, 2015b, p. 8). Its outward FDI stocks in 2014 amount to USD 1130614.7 millions (UNCTAD, 2015a), giving it a leading position compared to other world economies (see Table 2). UNCTAD (2004) proposes to introduce the Outward FDI performance index defined as “the world share of a country’s outward FDI as a ratio of its share in world GDP” (p. 16). Over the period 2010–2014, Switzerland reports a mean value of 5.93, listed in the top 20 of the OFDI performance index, just below Singapore (mean value: 6.79).⁴ Switzerland exhibits a high OFDI performance compared to other developed countries.

Second, As we can see in Figure 2a, its outward FDI position indicates that Switzerland invested and still invests massively within its home region (i.e., European Union; EU). Its OFDI stocks in EU amount to nearly 50% of its overall OFDI stocks. This percentage has not changed significantly over the period 2005–2014. This study aims to understand whether institutional

⁴Author’s calculations based on UNCTAD (2015a) with OFDI stocks data.

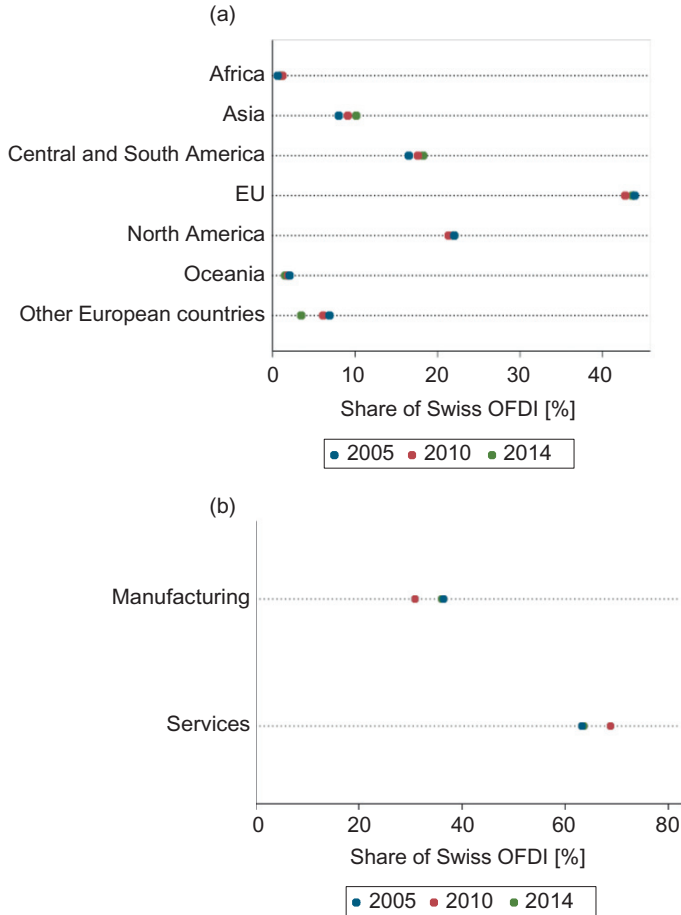


Figure 2. Share of Swiss OFDI Stocks. (a) By World Region. (b) By Sector.
Source: Author's elaboration based on Swiss National Bank (2016).

distance can be a significant factor explaining the regionalization of Swiss OFDI. Recent studies on Swiss OFDI focus primarily on OLI determinants (i.e., ownership, location, and internalization) to attempt to explain this trend (Arvanitis, Hollenstein, Ley, & Stucki, 2011; Arvanitis, Hollenstein, & Stucki, 2012).

Finally, Switzerland is also singular compared to other developed economies in terms of sectoral composition. In fact, an extensive part of its activities is services-based. This is also reflected in the sectoral composition of its outward FDI stocks (see Figure 2b). Most of the theories on internationalization focus on the determinants affecting the foreign production

Table 2: Top 10 Home Countries by Outward FDI Stocks (2014).

Rank	Country	OFDI Stocks (USDmio)
1.	United States	6318640
2.	United Kingdom	1584146.64
3.	Germany	1583279.407
4.	China, Hong Kong SAR	1459947.392
5.	France	1279089.348
6.	Japan	1193136.605
7.	Switzerland	1130614.7
8.	Netherlands	985255.6277
9.	China	729584.67
10.	Canada	714554.703

Source: Author's calculations based on UNCTADStat database (UNCTAD, 2015a).

(i.e., primarily the industry/manufacturing sector). It would be interesting to analyze to what extent these determinants can explain OFDI in the services sector. Moreover, as reported by the Swiss Statistics Office in 2012, 66.1% of the total number of enterprises are microenterprises (fewer than 2 employees), 32.3% have from 2 to 49 employees, 1.3% have from 50 to 249 employees, and the rest (more or less 0.3%) have more than 250 employees and are considered as big firms. Big firms with a high level of internationalization (e.g., Nestle, ABB) contribute to a large extent to the Swiss OFDI stocks. However, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also involved in the internationalization process. Theoretically, the firm size differences can also impact the strategic behavior of internationalization. It would be interesting to test it empirically using the Swiss case.

This book contributes to the controversial debate about globalization and full integration of the world economies, giving evidence that institutional distance is still a new topic and matters in the internationalization process of Swiss firms. The structure of the book will be described in the next section.

BOOK STRUCTURE

The book is divided in four main chapters. In the following, the purpose and the conclusions of each chapter will be discussed to

give the reader an overview of the contents. The thread throughout the book is “institutional distance.” The book has as its main objectives to answer the following questions:

- *How can we define and measure “institutional distance”?*
- *How can “institutional distance” impact FDI location and entry mode choices?* – Set of general theoretical hypotheses
- *Is “institutional distance” relevant in FDI location and entry mode choices of Swiss firms?* – Empirical analysis specific to Switzerland

Chapter 1 presents a review of the different conceptualizations and measurements of ID used in previous IB studies. To avoid overlaps, this book will be based on North’s conceptualization between informal and formal ID (North, 1990). It also aims to calculate ID using different methods and compare their statistical properties. Based on these calculations, the institutional distance of Switzerland with others countries is illustrated. With respect to the informal ID, Switzerland is relatively similar to developed countries (i.e., European Union, North America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan) and relatively dissimilar to developing countries (i.e., Russia, China, India), as expected. With respect to the formal ID, Switzerland is very similar to developed countries (i.e., small formal ID) and very dissimilar to developing countries (i.e., large formal ID). Differences on informal and formal ID between Switzerland and other countries can potentially be relevant in FDI location and entry mode choices.⁵

Chapter 2 posits the theoretical foundations of the relation between the institutional distance and the internationalization strategies of firms in terms of location and entry mode, primarily based on the concept of “liability of foreignness” (LOF) developed by Zaheer (1995). Due to the costs of entry in a foreign country, firms can be reluctant to undertake FDI in this specific foreign country (Kostova, 1997). ID, considered as one of the major causes of these costs, can impede FDI in particular locations (Eden & Miller, 2004; Gaur, Kumar, & Sarathy, 2011). However, institutional quality of the host country and firm-specific advantages of investing firms can reduce the negative impact of ID on FDI (Globerman & Shapiro, 2002;

⁵The Mahalanobis distance will be considered as our baseline method of ID calculation, other methods of calculation will be used for the sensitivity analysis.

Ramachandran & Pant, 2010). We consider experience and network/cluster embeddedness as determinant firm-specific advantages that enhance learning in a firm. Based on these theoretical considerations, we posit a set of hypotheses tested in Chapters 3 and 4.

Chapter 3 tests the impact of the institutional distance on Swiss FDI location at a country-level using aggregate data from the Swiss National Bank (SNB) over the period 2007–2012. We consider a log-linear version of a gravity model estimated through fixed effect model (FE), random effect model (RE), and pooled ordinary least squares (OLS). The gravity model is estimated for the total sample and for two sectoral subsamples (i.e., manufacturing and services) to account for possible differences in strategic behaviors between manufacturing and services firms. For the total sample, the results indicate that informal ID impacts negatively and significantly the Swiss FDI location choice, whereas the coefficient for formal ID is negative but not statistically different from zero. For the services sample, informal and formal ID have a negative and significant impact on Swiss FDI location choice, institutional quality offsetting the negative formal ID effect. For the manufacturing sample, neither informal ID nor formal ID seem to have an effect on the Swiss FDI location choice, but institutional quality impacts positively and significantly the location choice. Irrespective to the sample considered, the findings show some significantly determinant control variables in the Swiss FDI location choice: the gross domestic product (GDP) of the home and host countries, the geographical distance, and the host country openness to FDI.

Chapter 4 is based on a survey on internationalization of Swiss firms undertaken at the end of 2014 in collaboration with KOF Institute, Zurich. Questionnaires were sent to 545 firms and 187 filled-out questionnaires were received (response rate: 34.31%). The purpose of this survey was to determine at a firm-level the motivations of location and entry mode choice and assess the role of experience and network/cluster embeddedness. The chapter is divided into two parts. The first part includes a descriptive analysis of the responses illustrating the general trends observed on Swiss firms' internationalization. The second part deepens the analysis at an econometric level. The responses are transformed into variables and used as independent variables to explain the entry mode choice in terms of establishment and ownership. The equations are estimated through logit and probit models. For establishment choice, the findings indicate that

Table 3: Definition of Key Terms.

Key Term	Definition
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are defined by OECD as: “a category of cross-border investment made by a resident entity in one economy (the direct investor) with the objective of establishing a lasting interest in an enterprise (the direct investment enterprise) that is resident in an economy other than that of the direct investor” (OECD, 2008b, p. 22). As underlined by the OECD report (2008), the main motivation behind this type of investments is primarily to obtain a significant influence over the direct investment enterprise, particularly over its management. Hence, (OECD, 2008b, p. 23) considers as a “direct investor an entity that owns at least 10% of the voting power of the enterprise, reflecting the investor’s influence over the management of the direct investment enterprise.” However, this threshold is defined arbitrarily and it does not mean that 10% ownership always carries significant influence or, conversely, that less than 10% ownership implies no control in the invested firm.
MNE	“A multinational enterprise (MNE) is an enterprise that engages in FDI and owns or, in some way, controls value-added activities in more than one country” (Dunning & Lundan, 2008, p. 3).
ID	Institutional distance (ID) is defined as “the similarity or dissimilarity between two countries in terms of institutions” (Kostova, 1996).
LOF	Liability of foreignness (LOF) is defined as “the costs of doing business abroad that result in a competitive disadvantage for an MNE subunit” (Zaheer, 1995, p. 342).
Organizational legitimacy	Organizational Legitimacy can be defined as “the acceptance of the organization by its environment” (Kostova, 1999, p. 64).
Location choice	Location choice reflects the strategic choice of firms: WHERE to undertake FDI?
Entry mode choice	Entry mode choice reflects the strategic choice of firms: HOW to enter in a host country? This choice can be divided in two subchoices: establishment (i.e., new firm or acquiring existing firm) and ownership (i.e., the degree of capital participation).
Establishment mode	<i>Based on Padmanabhan and Cho (1999) and Brouthers and Hennart (2007)</i>
Greenfield	Greenfield investment consists of building a new entity (subsidiary) belonging to the parent firm.

Table 3: *(Continued)*

Key Term	Definition
Acquisition	Acquisition represents the transfer and absorption of assets of the acquired firm by the acquiring firm, giving it an absolute control of the acquired firm.
Ownership mode	<i>Based on Hennart and Larimo (1998)</i>
Full ownership	Capital participation: more than 95%.
Partial ownership	Capital participation: 10–95%.

formal ID decreases the probability to invest through greenfields and informal ID has no significant impact. For ownership choice, the results show that formal ID decreases the probability to invest through partial ownership, whereas informal ID increases this probability. The motivations, related to the seeking of specific intangible or tangible assets, increase the probability to invest through acquisitions and partial ownership.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

This section provides a definition of the essential terms necessary to clearly understand the analysis. **Table 3** lists these terms and gives a definition based on reliable sources.

1

Institutional Distance: Conceptualization and Measurements

This chapter is dedicated to the concept of “institutional distance” (ID). ID – defined as “the similarity or dissimilarity between two countries in terms of institutions” (Kostova, 1996) – has been used very often in IB studies, primarily with the purpose to understand different strategic firms’ behaviors and choices in their foreign direct investments (see [Table 1.1](#)). The first central issue is to define institutions. Different conceptualizations exist: from North (1990) distinguishing formal and informal institutions to Ghemawat (2001) and his “CAGE” (cultural, administrative, geographic, economic) framework. Section 1.1 reviews the multitude of “institutions” conceptualizations. The second issue to address is the operationalization of ID. In Section 1.2, a review of the data samples as well as the measures used as ID proxies is proposed. This highlights the diversity in the measurements and the requirements to compare their properties. Section 1.3 replicates the measurement methods of ID and proposes a detailed analysis of their statistical properties. Moreover, it considers the special case of Switzerland as a home country and illustrates the informal and formal ID between Switzerland and other countries.

1.1 Conceptualization: A Review

The first formal definition of institutional distance comes from Kostova (1999). Kostova (1999) defines institutional distance as “the difference between the institutional profiles of two countries” (Kostova, 1999, p. 316). According to her conception, each institutional profile is composed of three dimensions: regulatory, cognitive, and normative. This categorization of institutions is proposed by Scott (1995, 2008). According to Scott (2008), institutions are composed of three types of pillars: regulatory, cognitive, and normative. The regulatory pillar consists of all rules and laws of a society, which are made and enforced by the government. It also embraces all the “unwritten codes of conduct that underlie and supplement formal rules” (Scott, 2008, p. 52). The cognitive pillar represents all cognitive structures of a society: the mode of thinking, the symbols and meanings given to objects and behaviors. And finally the normative pillar refers to all social values of a society (norms, habits, customs). The cognitive and normative elements are mental constructions developed through education and socialization processes. Table 1.1 gives an overview of the different dimensions and their specific features. As shown in the table, institutions are like a coin with two tails. On one hand, the apparent and explicit regulatory part of

Table 1.1: Scott’s Conceptualization of Institutions.

North (1990)	Formal Constraints	Informal Constraints	
Scott (1995)	Regulatory	Cognitive	Normative
Domain	Rules, laws	Mode of thinking, being and view of the world	Social values
Origin	Government	Education and socialization processes	Education and socialization processes
Degree of formalization	High	In-between regulatory and normative	Low
Degree of tacitness	Low	In-between regulatory and normative	High – “Deep structures of a country” (Gersick, 1990)
Legitimacy problems	Few	More	More

Source: Author’s elaboration based on North (1990) and Scott (1995).

institutions can be easily interpreted by foreigners. On the other hand, the implicit and most invisible normative and cognitive parts of institutions are anchored in a society and difficult to capture and interpret by foreigners, causing legitimacy.¹ problems. Most of the IB studies² use Scott's definition to conceptualize institutions and the related concept of institutional distance.

Nevertheless, the boundaries between cognitive and normative pillars are not well defined and result in overlaps (Magnusson, Wilson, Zdravkovic, Zhou, & Westjohn, 2008). Thence, some studies³ use North's classification to avoid overlapping. The concept of institutions was defined by North (1990) as "the rules of the game in a society or, more formally, the human devised constraints that shape human interaction" (North, 1990, p. 3). North (1990) distinguishes two types of institutions, the formal and the informal ones. The formal institutions are defined as all the rules setting by a society, whereas the informal institutions refer to codes of conduct, norms, and conventions (North, 1990, pp. 36 and 47). Hodgson (2006) criticizes the distinction between "formal" and "informal" institutions. He notes that "these terms have been used misleadingly and in different ways. Does the term formal mean legal, written, explicit, codifiable, or something else? The ambiguities surrounding these terms mean that they cannot be taken for granted. One is required to specify more clearly what is meant in each case or use more transparent terms such as legal, nonlegal, and explicit instead." (Hodgson, 2006, p. 18). Hodgson (2006) defines institutions as "systems of established and embedded social rules that structure social interactions" (p. 18). He adds that "rules in this context are understood as socially transmitted and customary normative

¹See Table 1.4 for its definition.

²See Demirbag et al. (2007), Du (2009), Eden and Miller (2004), Gaur and Lu (2007), Ilhan Nas (2012), Ionascu et al. (2004), Kittilaksanawong (2009), Pattnaik and Choe (2007), Ramsey (2005), Xu et al. (2004), Xu and Shenkar (2002), Yiu and Makino (2002), Phillips, Tracey, and Karra (2009), Añón Higón and Manjón Antolín (2012), Ando (2012), Arslan and Larimo (2010), Bae and Salomon (2010), Chao and Kumar (2010), Pogrebnyakov and Maitland (2011), Rottig and Reus (2008), Chao, Kim, Zhao, and Hsu (2012), Chao et al. (2012), Dikova (2012), Owens et al. (2013), Wu (2013).

³See Bae and Salomon (2010), Dikova et al. (2010), Estrin et al. (2009), Seyoum (2009), Trevino and Mixon (2004), Wu (2009), Lankhuizen, Groot, and Linders (2011), Lankhuizen, Groot, and Linders (2011), Schwens, Eiche, and Kabst (2011), Aguilera-Caracuel, Hurtado-Torres, Aragon-Correa, and Rugman (2013), Aleksynska and Havrylychuk (2013), Ando and Paik (2013), Bowe, Golesorkhi, and Yamin (2014), Bowe et al. (2014), Dahms (2014), Elango et al. (2013).