1. **Title:**
   Trading Virus: Pandemics and Economic Globalization

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3. **Abstract:**
   COVID-19 pandemic has crippled nearly all major countries in the past few months. Travel is clearly the vehicle for global transmission of a virus. However, our hypothesis suggests a deeper global connection may affect the development of a global pandemic. We suggest that it is economic relations that bring about travels, to begin with. Whether people travel across continents for family reasons, tourism, or business, it is due to economic connections. Perhaps, they travel to conduct business (i.e., exports and imports of goods and services or investments), or they do so due to international immigration of family and friends. All in all, fundamental international economic relations (flow of goods and services and production factors) have made our world a global village. Our objective in this paper is to test this hypothesis using the on-going case of COVID-19. This paper is an empirical attempt to study the impact of international trade on development of global pandemics using data on COVID-19. We use volume of bilateral trade with China (the origin of current pandemic) as our primary indicator of international economic relations.

4. **Data description:**
   United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) database
   World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) database
   World Development Indicator (WDI) database
   World Health Organization (WHO) database

   For this project, we use cross-sectional data on COVID-19, trade, key macroeconomic indicators, and health system for over 190 countries. The data for COVID-19 is obtained from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) database. The data on bilateral trade with China comes from the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) database of the World Bank. The data on trade in goods, services, commercial services, and tourism is sourced from the World Development Indicator (WDI) database. The additional controls include economic variables (GDP per capita and population, both sourced from WDI database) and healthcare system controls (median age, hospital beds, and health expenditure as percentage of GDP, all sourced from WDI database, and the number of cases in previous respiratory pandemics, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Influenza A Virus Subtype (H1N1), sourced from the World Health Organization (WHO) database).

5. **JEL codes for the project:**
   F1, I1.

6. **Key-words:**
   Pandemic; COVID-19; International trade.