**Editor’s Comment:**

 The language and academic writing could use a thorough revision; there are several grammatical issues and awkward phrasings that need attention. I'd strongly suggest a professional edit to ensure clarity and consistency.

The abstract feels a bit dense and could be more concise, focusing on the core research question, methods, and key findings. Also, the methodology section needs more transparency, especially regarding data sources and the rationale behind the chosen indices. More detail on data handling and any limitations would be helpful.

While there are many tables and figures, their interpretation in the text could be strengthened. Clearer labeling and a more critical discussion of the data would enhance the analysis. The literature review also feels somewhat superficial; a deeper engagement with existing studies and a clearer theoretical framework would add more depth.

The analysis could go beyond descriptive statistics to explore the underlying drivers of trade patterns, and the policy recommendations could be more closely tied to the empirical findings. Prioritizing and tailoring these recommendations would make them more impactful.

Finally, ensuring consistency in terminology and formatting throughout the manuscript is important. The ethical statement also needs clarification. A discussion of the study's limitations and suggestions for future research would round out the paper nicely.

In short, while the manuscript has potential, it needs significant revisions to meet publication standards. I believe these changes will greatly enhance its scholarly value.

**Editor’s Details:**

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