

YEN TRAN Ph.D.

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I recently defended my PhD in Finance at the University of Aberdeen on January 17, 2025, with minor corrections (due April). My research spans transdisciplinary finance, sustainability, international relations, and public policy. I have contributed to a published book, a CABS 3* paper, and received media coverage for my research. I am committed to fostering collaborative relationships grounded in trust and respect.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD research | Finance | University of Aberdeen | UK

Oct 2020-Jan 2025

- Investigating biases in sovereign credit ratings, using Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning techniques to extract insights from the language of rating reports (Refining for Management Science submission by June 2025).
- Developing indices of friendships among nations by aggregating over 100 indicators using unobserved component models. Assessed their impact on rating analysts' evaluations. (Enhancing for American Political Science Review submission by August 2025).
- Published a thesis chapter (Tran et al., 2021, CABS 3*), featured in [Bloomberg](#).
- Presented at the International Conference in Finance, Banking and Accounting, Scotdoc, and the University of Aberdeen's annual PGR conference.

Other Selected Research Projects | UK, Vietnam

2015-Present

- Researching the impact of nature loss on sovereign creditworthiness and access to funding with Prof Patrycja Klusak and Prof Matthew Agarwala (Bennett Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge & Bennett Institute for Innovation & Policy Acceleration, University of Sussex). Responsibilities include data collection, data processing, and statistical analysis. Revise & Resubmit at Ecological Economics (CABS 3*). *Apr 2024-Present*
- Led data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation in a project surveying 205 entrepreneurs to identify key performance factors. The findings were published in a book by Dr Van Ha Nguyen, Banking Academy of Vietnam (Nguyen et al., 2018). *2015*

Research Assistant | UK, Germany, Italy

2020-Present

- Supporting an NLP project analysing ESG analyst subjectivities in sustainability report narratives, led by Prof Patrycja Klusak (Heriot-Watt University & Bennett Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge) and Prof Florian Kiesel (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano). *Dec 2024 - Present*
- Assisted Dr Moritz Kraemer, Chief Economist and Head of Research at LBBW Bank, Germany, with data collection for his article featured on [Bloomberg](#) and [Reuters](#). *Mar 2021*
- Collected rating and financial data from RatingDirects, CapitalIQ and WRDS for Prof Patrycja Klusak at the University of East Anglia. *Feb-July 2020*

RELEVANT RESEARCH SKILLS

- Automating data downloading, processing, analysis, and visualisation with Python and Stata.
- Applying Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning to analyse text data, including rating reports, ESG reports, corporate reports, news, and tweets.
- Designing surveys and conducting interviews with company owners and managers.
- Working with various financial and non-financial datasets, including qualitative and quantitative data (Bloomberg, Eikon, WRDS, World Bank, IMF, Johns Hopkins, OxCGRT).
- Developing and deploying web applications using Python, Flask, and HTML.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

- Klusak, P., Vu, H., **Tran**, Y., Burke, M., & M. Agarwala (2025). (Revise & Resubmit). The heterogeneous relationship between biodiversity ESG scores and sovereign credit ratings. *Ecological Economics*. Re-submission due May 2025 (CABS 3*).
- **Tran**, Y., Vu, H., Klusak, P., & Burke, M. (2025). Personal biases of credit rating analysts. Working paper. To be submitted to *Management Science* by June 2025.
- **Tran**, Y., Vu, H., & Klusak, P. (2025). Friendships among nations and their socio-economic impact. Working paper. To be submitted to American Political Science Review by August 2025.
- **Tran**, Y., Vu, H., Klusak, P., Kraemer, M., & Hoang, T. (2021). Sovereign credit ratings during the COVID-19 pandemic. *International Review of Financial Analysis*, 78, 101879 (CABS 3*).
- Nguyen, V. H., **Tran**, Y., Bui, T. H. A., Tran, M. & Le, T. H. Y. (2018). *Doanh nhân Việt Nam - Các yếu tố ảnh hưởng* [Vietnamese entrepreneurs – Factors affecting performance]. National Economics University Press.

EDUCATION

PhD in Finance University of Aberdeen	Oct 2020-Jan 2025
MSc in Finance Coventry University	Sep 2016-Sep 2017
BBA (HONS) in Entrepreneurship Banking Academy of Vietnam	Sep 2011-Jul 2015

AWARDS

Elphinstone PhD Scholarship University of Aberdeen	2020-2024
Course Tutor's Prize for overall excellent academic achievement MSc Finance, Coventry University	2017
Young Research Talent Award Banking Academy of Vietnam	2015

MEDIA and IMPACT

- My paper, "Sovereign credit ratings during the COVID-19 pandemic", received exclusive coverage from [Bloomberg](#) and was featured in the [National Library of Medicine](#), a U.S. government entity. Other media outlets include [About Manchester](#) and [Public Health Scotland](#).
- After the article's publication, health professionals and European politicians approached our team to explore collaborations linking pandemic preparedness with sovereign creditworthiness.

TEACHING and ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT

Teaching Assistant - PhD Tutor | University of Aberdeen, UK

Oct 2021-Nov 2024

- Delivered online and in-person tutorials, supported lectures, developed materials, graded exam papers, and provided academic support.
- Undergraduate: Business Finance, Operation Management, International Context for Business 2, Understanding Statistics.
- Postgraduate: International Financial Management, Portfolio Analysis, Investment Project, Research Practice.

Marketing Executive & Market Research Specialist

Sep 2019-Aug 2020

- Marketing Executive at KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) Hanoi. Built databases of Vietnamese companies across sectors. Supported Korean companies in finding suitable business partners in Vietnam, providing tailored recommendations and insights to enhance their market entry strategies. Assisted trade delegations.
- Conducted market research on orders.

Assistant to the Chairwoman & CEO | Thanh Dat Seagoing Vessel, VN

Jul 2018-Mar 2019

- Assisted the Chairwoman & CEO with business strategy and daily management at Thanh Dat, a sea-freight and coal trading company. Simultaneously supported her role as the Deputy General Manager of Vietnam Waterway Construction Corporation (VINAWACO).

REFERENCES

- Huong Vu, Lecturer in Finance, University of Aberdeen, huong.vu@abdn.ac.uk.
- Patrycja Klusak, Professor of Social Sciences, Heriot-Watt University and Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, P.Klusak@hw.ac.uk.
- Florian Kiesel, Associate Professor in Corporate Finance, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Florian.Kiesel@unibz.it.