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Education

Ph.D Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, 2020 (expected).

M.A. Economics, Vanderbilt University, 2013.

B.A. Economics, University of Indonesia, 2009.

References

Nancy Chau
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Research Interests

Development Economics, Health Economics, and Public Economics.

Research

Job Market Paper

Import Restriction and Local Policy Responses: Evidence from Indonesia

This paper uses heterogeneity in the effects of rice import restriction across Indonesian villages to analyze local policy responses to price shocks attributed to a trade protection policy. Rice import restriction imposed sharp increase and considerable variation in domestic rice price. I exploit within village variation by combining agro-climatic conditions to grow rice with provincial rice price over time. Using a comprehensive longitudinal dataset of more than 53,000 villages spanning from 2000 to 2014, I find evidence that rice price hike harmed villages less suited for growing rice in terms of aggregate income and nutrition. District governments distributed more resources toward those villages. They launched more development projects, particularly capital assistance, and had higher probability of receiving public health facilities, but only for villages that did not already have one. The effects on health facilities are weaker in more equal and more ethnically diverse villages. Stronger effects on

development projects in more equal villages can partly be explained by higher social capital in those villages. Finally, I show that the presence of public health facilities mitigated adverse effects on infant mortality prevalence in adversely affected villages. These results have important implications for risk mitigating strategies to address adverse consequences of a trade protection policy at the local level.

Publication

The Consequences of Child Market Work on the Growth of Human Capital

World Development, March 2017

(with Daniel Suryadarma and Asep Suryahadi)

The paper measures the effect of child market work on the long-term growth of human capital, focusing on the output of the human capital production: mathematics skills, cognitive skills, pulmonary function, and educational attainment. Our full sample is drawn from a rich longitudinal dataset Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS). We address endogeneity of child market work using provincial legislated minimum wage as the instrument. Our instrumental variable estimation shows that child labor negatively affects mathematics skills and pulmonary function, but not cognitive skills and educational attainment. We find heterogeneities in type of work. Those who work outside of family business have lower educational attainment than those working for family business.

Working Papers

Long-run Consequences of Health Insurance Promotion When Mandates are Not Enforceable: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Ghana

Under Review

(with Patrick Asuming and Hyuncheol Bryant Kim)

We study long-run selection and treatment effects of a health insurance subsidy in Ghana, where mandates are not enforceable. We randomly provide different levels of subsidy (1/3, 2/3, and full), with follow-up surveys seven months and three years after the initial intervention. We find that a one-time subsidy promotes and sustains insurance enrollment for all treatment groups, but long-run health care service utilization increases only for the partial subsidy groups. We find evidence that selection explains this pattern: those who were enrolled due to the subsidy, especially the partial subsidy, are more ill and have greater health care utilization.

Impacts of a False-Positive Cancer Screening Result on Health Behaviors: Evidence from National Public Cancer Screening Program in South Korea

Studies linking information and health behaviors generally ask what individuals do to their health behaviors upon learning they have health problems. In this paper, I ask what individuals would do upon learning unexpectedly good news about their health after previously learning that they have health problems. This paper investigates the question by examining the effects of receiving a false-positive result from stomach cancer screening on future screening take-up rate and outpatient days. I investigate National Cancer Screening Program (NCSP) in Korea — one of the largest population-based cancer screening programs in the world — that provides cancer screening to the entire population of 40 years old and older. Using eight million observations from the universe of NCSP participants, my difference-in-differences estimate shows significant effects of a false-positive result from stomach cancer screening on its future take-up. However, I find negative effects on general health screening. The effects on outpatient days are mixed. It increased (decreased) outpatient days among men (women).

Works in Progress

Unintended Health Consequences of Large Dams in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Employment

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Economics and Finance (AEM/ECON 2300), Spring 2019, Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant, Population Dynamics (DSOC 2010), Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Global Health Policy and Economics (PAM 4140), Fall 2016

Short Term Consultant, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2016-2017

Researcher, The Smeru Research Institute, Indonesia, 2013-2014

Junior Researcher, The Smeru Research Institute, Indonesia, 2010-2011

Research Assistant in Economic Affairs, The Vice President's Office of the Republic of Indonesia, 2009-2010

Awards and Grants

Ashley Endowment Summer Research Assistanship, Cornell University, 2018

Einaudi International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University, 2018

Nancy Loncto Research Grant, Cornell University, 2018

Graduate School Conference Grant, Cornell University, 2017, 2019

Departmental Conference Grant, 2017, 2019

Indonesia Education Endowment Fund (LPDP) for doctoral studies, 2014-2018

Fulbright Scholarship, 2011-2013

Global Travel and Learning Fund from the Ford Foundation, 2011-2012

Presentation

2019 NEUDC (Northwestern University)

2018 NEUDC (Cornell University)

2017 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Fall Research Conference (Chicago),
International Health Economics Association (IHEA) World Congress (Boston)

Professional Activities

Reviewer for *World Development*, *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*

Software

Stata, QGIS, LaTeX