

HA BUI

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, Economics, The University of Texas at Austin	2018-2024 (Expected)
M.A., Economics, The University of Texas at Austin	2016-2018
B.A., International Economics, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	2008-2012

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics, International Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Professor Olivier Coibion (UT-Austin), Professor Andrei A. Levchenko (UM-Ann Arbor), and Professor Nitya Pandalai-Nayar (UT-Austin)	2020-2021
Research Assistant for Professor Olivier Coibion (UT-Austin) and Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko (UC Berkeley)	2017-2018
Research Assistant for Professor Sandra Black (UT-Austin)	2017-2018
Researcher, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Vietnam)	2012-2016
Research Assistant, Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2010-2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin

International Trade Theory, Teaching Assistant for Professor Nitya Pandalai-Nayar	Spring 2022
International Economics (M.A.), Teaching Assistant for Professor Shalah Mostashari	Fall 2021
Time Series (M.A.), Teaching Assistant for Professor Anastasia Zervou	Spring 2019, 2020
Introduction to Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Stephen Donald	Fall 2019
Introduction to Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Helen Schneider	Fall 2018

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Lecturer, taught International Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics	2012-2016
Teaching Assistant, Foreign Service Training Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Vietnam)	2011-2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting	2021
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HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

NBER Behavioral Macroeconomics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students	2022 (scheduled)
Stanford Big-Data Initiative in International Macro-Finance, Stanford University	2021
Summer Fellowship, Department of Economics, UT-Austin	2021
Professional Development Award, UT-Austin	2020
Best Second Year Paper Award, Department of Economics, UT-Austin	2020
Collaborative Research Fellowship, Department of Economics, UT-Austin	2020
Fulbright Scholarship	2016-2018
South China Sea Research Award for graduate and undergraduate students – Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam	2012

WORK IN PROGRESS

Income Inequality and Variety Inequality

This paper explores how income inequality leads to different consumption patterns through differences in the spectrum of goods offered by retailers. The hypothesis is that high-inequality regions have a broader base of consumers with different levels of income, so retailers offer more varieties to accommodate demand. Thus, households in these regions enjoy more products and make different consumption choices compared to similar households in low-inequality regions. Using Nielsen scanner data over 2011-2017 at the county level, I find that high-inequality counties have more varieties than low-inequality regions. However, low- and high-income households in more unequal counties consume fewer varieties than similar households in low-inequality areas. Households in high-inequality counties take advantage of more varieties available and switch to consume products that are not offered in low-inequality regions. To explain the mechanism underlying these empirical findings and quantify the welfare impact, I develop a model featuring household's income drawn from a distribution with the same mean but different variances to reflect the region's income inequality, household's utility function with cost of consuming variety, and firms under monopolistic competition.

Industry News and Firms' Expectations

This paper studies the role of industry news in shaping firms' expectations of macroeconomic conditions. Using a U.S. survey of firms' inflation expectations, Coibion et al. (2020) report a large disagreement among firms about future aggregate conditions even though they observe similar aggregate statistics. Andrade et al. (2020) use a survey of French manufacturing firms and document that the firm's industry conditions play an important role in forming firm's aggregate expectations. However, many small and medium-sized firms are unlikely to have access to privileged industry information. Instead, they rely on standard news sources to learn about industry conditions. Therefore, firms' public industry news would have a substantial role in shaping their view of aggregate economic conditions. This paper provides new evidence documenting the role of firms' industry news on forming their expectations about aggregate macroeconomic condition using South African firm-level expectation data and a novel dataset of news reports in major South African newspapers and newspapers of South Africa's major trading partners.

News Media and International Fluctuations

With Zhen Huo, Andrei A. Levchenko, and Nitya Pandalai-Nayar

We develop a multi-country multi-sector model with global value chains and informational frictions. Producers in a sector do not perfectly observe shocks to other countries and sectors, and their output decisions respond to beliefs about the productivity innovations worldwide. To discipline the agents' information sets, we collect a novel quarterly dataset of the frequencies of industry-specific economic news reports by leading newspapers in the G7 plus Spain. Newspapers in each country publish articles on select events in both domestic and partner-country sectors, and not every event is reported worldwide. We show in reduced-form regressions that (i) greater news coverage is associated with smaller GDP forecast errors; and (ii) sectors more covered in the news exhibit greater business cycle comovement, even controlling for their trade intensity. We then use the news coverage data to discipline the key parameters in the quantitative model, namely the precision of the public signals about country-sector productivities. Noise shocks about TFP throughout the global value chain can be a quantitatively important source of international GDP comovement. Furthermore, these shocks would appear as labor wedges in standard models without dispersed information.

SKILLS

Computer Skills: Eviews, MATLAB, Python, R, Stata
Languages: English (Fluent), Vietnamese (Native)