

HA BUI

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. in Economics

2018-2024 (*Expected*)

Fields: Macroeconomics, International Economics

The University of Texas at Austin

M.A. in Economics

2016-2018

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

B.A. in International Economics, *Summa Cum Laude*

2008-2012

WORKING PAPERS

Inequality in Income and Varieties

Job Market Paper

This paper studies the impact of local income inequality on household consumption and welfare through the changing availability of varieties of consumer goods. I find that in high-inequality counties, more varieties are offered to households. However, households living in high-inequality counties purchase fewer varieties compared to similar ones in low-inequality counties. This happens even though households shop in more stores in high-inequality counties. These effects are even more pronounced for individuals in the tails of the income distribution. To quantify channels underlying these empirical findings and speak to the welfare impact, I develop a model featuring an endogenous number of varieties produced by firms and a choice over which varieties to purchase by households. After estimating many of the parameters of the model, I show that the model can reproduce both empirical facts. Quantitatively, I find that households are generally worse off when living in higher-inequality regions because firms are better able to segment the market.

Information Frictions and News Media in Global Value Chains

NBER Working Paper 30033, with Zhen Huo, Andrei A. Levchenko, and Nitya Pandalai-Nayar

We study international propagation of both fundamental and non-fundamental shocks in a global production network model with information frictions. Producers in a sector do not perfectly observe other country-sector fundamentals, and their production decisions depend on their beliefs about worldwide exogenous states as well as other producers' behavior. In this environment, "noise" shocks – errors in the public signals about fundamentals – propagate internationally and generate aggregate fluctuations. Using a novel panel dataset containing the frequencies of country-industry-specific economic news reports by 11 leading newspapers in the G7 plus Spain, we show that greater news coverage is associated with both smaller GDP forecast errors, and less disagreement among forecasters. We use these empirical regularities to discipline the parameters governing the severity of information frictions. We find that noise shocks are a quantitatively important source of international fluctuations. Noise shocks propagate relatively more powerfully to the more distant parts of the network, while TFP shocks propagate less powerfully to the more distant sectors in the presence of informational frictions.

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. Using South African firm-level expectation data together with state-of-the-art Natural Language Processing models on a novel dataset of news reports in major South African newspapers and newspapers of South Africa's major trading partners, this paper provides new evidence documenting the role of firms' industry news on forming their expectations about aggregate macroeconomic condition.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, University of Texas at Austin

Macroeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Olivier Coibion	<i>Fall 2022, Fall 2023</i>
Macroeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Christoph Boehm	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Introduction to Economics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Dean Showalter	<i>Summer 2022</i>
International Trade Theory, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Nitya Pandalai-Nayar	<i>Spring 2022</i>
International Economics (M.A. course), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Shalah Mostashari	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Time Series (M.A. course), Teaching Assistant for Prof. Anastasia Zervou	<i>Spring 2019, Spring 2020</i>
Introduction to Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Stephen Donald	<i>Fall 2019</i>
Introduction to Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Helen Schneider	<i>Fall 2018</i>

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam

Lecturer, taught International Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Economic Integration and International Organizations	<i>2012-2016</i>
Teaching Assistant, Foreign Service Training Center	<i>2011-2012</i>

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin	<i>2022-2023</i>
NBER Behavioral Macroeconomics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students	<i>2022</i>
Stanford Big-Data Initiative in International Macro-Finance, Stanford University	<i>2021</i>
Graduate Summer Fellowship, Department of Economics, UT Austin	<i>2021, 2022</i>
Professional Development Award, UT Austin	<i>2020, 2022, 2023</i>
Best Second Year Paper Award, Department of Economics, UT Austin	<i>2020</i>
Collaborative Research Fellowship, Department of Economics, UT Austin	<i>2020</i>
Fulbright Scholarship	<i>2016-2018</i>

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Seminars

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Midwest Macro Meetings Fall 2023	2023
Midwest Macro Meetings Fall 2022	2022
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting	2021

Other activities

Referee for The Review of Economics and Statistics	
Data Science for All – Women’s Summit, Correlation One	2022
Special Sworn Status (SSS) Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau	2021-present
Web-scraping and Data-cleaning for Research, Kelley School of Business	2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Prof. Nitya Pandalai-Nayar (UT Austin)	Summer 2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Olivier Coibion (UT Austin), Prof. Andrei A. Levchenko (University of Michigan), and Prof. Nitya Pandalai-Nayar (UT Austin)	2020-2021
Research Assistant for Prof. Saroj Bhattarai (UT Austin)	Fall 2020
Research Assistant for Prof. Olivier Coibion (UT Austin) and Prof. Yuriy Gorodnichenko (UC Berkeley)	2017-2018
Research Assistant for Prof. Sandra Black (UT Austin)	2017-2018
Researcher, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam	2012-2016
Research Assistant, Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam	2010-2012

SKILLS

Programs: Eviews, MATLAB, Python, R, Stata

Languages: English (Fluent), Vietnamese (Native)

Citizenship & Work Authorization: Vietnamese, eligible to work in the U.S. without restriction

REFERENCES

Olivier Coibion

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Nitya Pandalai-Nayar

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics, UT Austin
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Christoph E. Boehm

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics, UT Austin
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