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Fields of Concentration:

Development Economics
International Trade

Desired Teaching:

Development Economics
International Trade
Microeconomics
Macroeconomics

Comprehensive Examinations Completed:

2020 (Oral): Development Economics, Macroeconomics
2019 (Written): Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Dissertation Title: *The Welfare Effects of Place-based, Migration, and Trade Policies*

Committee:

Professor Samuel Kortum (Chair)
Professor Mark Rosenzweig
Professor Lorenzo Caliendo

Degrees:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2024 (expected)
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2021
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2020
B.A. (*summa cum laude*), Economics and Math, New York University Abu Dhabi, 2018

Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF), 2022-2023
Yale 3-Minute Thesis Finalist, 2023
Richard J. Bernhard Fellowship, 2019-2022

Yale University Doctoral Fellowship, 2018-2023
Cowles Foundation Doctoral Grant, 2018-2023

Research Grants:

SYLFF Research Grant, 2021-2022 & 2023-2024. *US\$8,300*
Yale Council on Southeast Asian Studies Summer Research, 2020-2022. *US\$10,000*

Teaching Experience:

Fall 2022, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Cormac O'Dea, Introductory Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College
Spring 2022, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Aleh Tsyvinski, Introductory Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College
Fall 2021, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Cormac O'Dea, Introductory Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College
Summer 2021, Teaching Assistant to Jonathan Hawkins-Pierot, Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College
Spring 2021, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Aleh Tsyvinski, Introductory Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College
Fall 2020, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Ilse Lindenlaub and Dr. Marnix Amand, Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Yale College

Working Papers:

“Place-Based Policy, Migration Barriers, and Spatial Inequality”, *Job Market Paper*

“Why does the Sex Ratio at Birth Rise? Evidence from Vietnam” with Ngoc T. Nguyen

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, October 2023
NEUDC, November 2023

Languages:

Vietnamese (native), English

References:

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Dissertation Abstract

Place-Based Policy, Migration Barriers, and Spatial Inequality, [Job Market Paper]

Policymakers around the world are faced with the opposing nature of two prevalent approaches to addressing spatial inequality. On the one hand, place-based incentives aim to help disadvantaged areas by attracting firms. On the other hand, migration policies suggest enabling people to leave these regions for better opportunities. How do these opposing strategies interact, and what is their combined impact on regional disparities?

This paper aims to unravel this puzzle by examining the effects of place-based incentives and easing migration barriers on spatial inequality in Vietnam. In 2003, the government offered tax incentives to firms entering disadvantaged regions, and, in 2005, relaxed the household registration (Ho Khau) policy, which restricted internal migration.

To quantify the welfare effects of policies, I gather establishment and household data spanning two decades to document new facts. These observations motivate the development of a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model that allows interactions between geography, policies, occupational choices, migration, congestion, and agglomeration effects. Tax incentives raise entrepreneurship but reduce public services, while eased migration barriers lead to higher congestion, as people compete for public services. Consequently, the policy effects depend on the firm entry elasticity and the migration costs associated with the Ho Khau reform.

To identify these factors, I exploit policy changes using model-consistent difference-in-differences designs. The model predicts that lowering tax rates for young firms increases firm entry relative to the likelihood of established firms continuing to operate. I use changes in taxes over time, space, and firm age to test this prediction and identify the firm entry elasticity. Furthermore, I leverage the time and spatial variations of the Ho Khau policy to identify changes in migration costs.

I find that place-based tax incentives can diminish spatial inequality when coupled with robust public services. Easing migration barriers to developed areas, while reducing inequality, also decreases welfare in these cities. A strategy that offers tax incentives in underdeveloped regions

and lowers migration barriers to developed ones is more promising in reducing spatial inequality than directing both firms and workers to underdeveloped areas.

Why does Sex Ratio at Birth Rise? Evidence from Vietnam, with Ngoc T. Nguyen

This study connects Vietnam's elevated sex ratio at birth (SRB) to the 2001 US-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement. Our model incorporates three major factors that influence SRB: income, relative returns based on the child's sex, and fertility. The model presents twelve predictions, which are tested using large-scale repeated cross-sectional and panel surveys in a difference-in-difference design. The results indicate that mothers who experience larger tariff reductions tend to have a stronger preference for sons, work more, and desire fewer children. These findings suggest that fertility is the main driver of the elevated SRB. Overall, this paper highlights the interplay between cultural norms, maternal income, childcare, and fertility, revealing the unexpected demographic impact of trade policies.