

## **Nghiem Q. Huynh**

**Address:** Department of Economics  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06520-8268

**Telephone:** (+1) 203 343 7959

**E-mail:** [nghiem.huynh@yale.edu](mailto:nghiem.huynh@yale.edu)

**Web page:** [nghiemhuynh.com](http://nghiemhuynh.com)

**Citizenship:** Vietnamese (F-1 Visa)

**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:**

Prof. Samuel Kortum  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box  
Phone: 203-432-6217  
[samuel.kortum@yale.edu](mailto:samuel.kortum@yale.edu)

Prof. Mark Rosenzweig  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box  
Phone: 203-432-3588  
[mark.rosenzweig@yale.edu](mailto:mark.rosenzweig@yale.edu)

Prof. Lorenzo Caliendo  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box  
Phone: 203-432-4069  
[lorenzo.caliendo@yale.edu](mailto:lorenzo.caliendo@yale.edu)

Prof. Cormac O'Dea (Teaching)  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box  
Phone: 203-432-7572  
[cormac.odea@yale.edu](mailto:cormac.odea@yale.edu)

## **Dissertation Abstract**

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

Place-based incentives and migration barrier reductions are common policy interventions to persistent regional inequality. However, quantitative assessment of large-scale and combined effects of these policies remains limited.

This paper examines the unique context of Vietnam where the government implemented both policies at scale. In 2003, it 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 each and both policies, I gather establishment and household microdata and develop a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model that incorporates the location and occupational choices of workers and entrepreneurs. The model reveals mixed effects of policies on spatial inequality. Tax incentives may attract entrepreneurs but reduce public services, while eased migration barriers can offset and amplify the effects of place-based policies. Consequently, their effects depend on the firm entry elasticity with respect to taxes and the migration costs associated with the Ho Khau reform.

To identify these factors, I exploit policy changes using multiple 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 validate 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 have a minimal impact on spatial inequality and do not recoup local revenue loss, given the existing level of central government redistribution. In contrast, the Ho Khau reform significantly lowers migration costs to poorer areas, boosting labor supply and firm entry, and increasing welfare by 4% there, versus a 1.5% rise in wealthier areas. The implementation of both policies mitigates the adverse effects of tax incentives and reduces inequality, primarily due to the Ho Khau reform.

**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.