

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

Web page: 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 208268
Phone: 203-432-6217
samuel.kortum@yale.edu

Prof. Mark Rosenzweig
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208268
Phone: 203-432-3588
mark.rosenzweig@yale.edu

Prof. Lorenzo Caliendo
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208268
Phone: 203-432-4069
lorenzo.caliendo@yale.edu

Prof. Cormac O'Dea (Teaching)
Yale University
Department of Economics
New Haven, CT 06520
PO Box 208268
Phone: 203-432-7572
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 address 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 policy individually and in combination, I gather establishment and household data spanning two decades to document new facts. These observations inform the development of a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model that captures the interactions between geography, policy measures, occupational choices, migration, congestion, and agglomeration effects. Tax incentives may attract entrepreneurs but reduce public services, while eased migration barriers can lead to higher congestion, as people compete for public services. 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.

The findings suggest that place-based tax incentives can effectively diminish spatial inequality, especially when coupled with robust public services. Easing migration barriers to more affluent areas, while reducing inequality, can also decrease welfare in these cities. A balanced approach that employs place-based incentives to encourage firm establishment in less developed areas, alongside reduced migration barriers to more developed regions, is more effective than focusing solely on promoting development in 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.