

Shannon Phuong Tran

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<https://www.shantran.com>

Research Interests: Gender economics, economics of science, economics of education

EDUCATION

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Honolulu, HI)

Ph.D. candidate, Economics

M.A., Economics

Matriculated 2018

2018 – 2020

- Seiji Naya Outstanding First-Year Student Award (2020); Seiji Naya Outstanding Third-Year Paper Award (2022); Burnham Campbell Fellowship Recipient (2023); GSO Award, \$1440 (2021)

University of California, Davis (Davis, CA)

2012 – 2016

B.A., Economics, cum laude

B.A., International Relations, cum laude

Minors (3): Managerial & Resource Economics, East Asian Studies, Communication

- UC Davis Dean’s List (4x); Korea University Global Scholarship (2x)
- Study abroad in Seoul, South Korea during academic year 2014-15 (Korea University)
- Conference curator & lead organizer for TEDx UC Davis 2015 & 2016

RESEARCH

Publications

- “Ranking Researchers: Evidence from Indonesia” (with John Lynham and Caroline Fry), *Research Policy*, 2023
- “The Price of Mistrust: The impact of a medical ethics scandal on scientific capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Caroline Fry), *Industry and Innovation*, 2024

Working Papers/ In Progress

- “Star Secrets? Gender differences in the impact of superstar coauthorship in economics” (job market paper)
- “Food for Thought: Can college pantries nourish academic success?”

WORK EXPERIENCE

NSF ADVANCE Kaulike Catalyst Project

Jan 2024 – present

Graduate Research Assistant

Honolulu, HI

- Investigate experiences of women in STEM at UH Manoa using a feminist, intersectional approach.
- Develop proposals to address gender inequities in tenure, promotion, and faculty hiring.
- Monitor outcomes and present findings to advisory boards and the UH Manoa community.
- Software/programs used: STATA; R; Springform.

May 2021 – Dec 2023

The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai‘i (UHERO)

Graduate Research Assistant

Honolulu, HI

- Manage website and public media content to disseminate economics research.
- Assist in purchase orders and reimbursements for research funding and grants.
- Software/programs used: WordPress; MailChimp; Adobe Creative Cloud; Concur.

Department of Economics, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Aug 2018 – May 2021

Graduate Research Assistant for College Better Experiment

Honolulu, HI

- Examine commitment and monetary incentives to improve undergraduate academic performance.

- Software/programs used: STATA; TouchNet; Paypal; Qualtrics; Google Forms; Microsoft Office.

TEACHING

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (*Honolulu, HI*)

- Math Camp for Economics PhDs (graduate), instructor
- Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), teaching assistant
- R for Econometrics (undergraduate), teaching assistant
- Introduction to Statistics (undergraduate), instructor

EVENTS, SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Academic Attendances:** Geography of Innovation Conference 2022 (presenter); Hawaii One-Day Applied Micro Conference 2018, 2019 (organizer and attendee); CSWEP Women’s Mentoring Workshop 2022, 2023 (participant); Foundation for Economic Education Conference on Environmental Economics 2013 (attendee); UH Manoa Applied Micro Brownbag, 2021, 2022, & 2023 (presenter); 2024 FMA Annual Meeting (presenter); CSWEP Paper Sessions for ASSA Annual Meeting 2025 (upcoming, presenter).
- **Affiliations:** Graduate Women in Science Hawaii; East-West Toastmasters
- **Skills:** Data analysis & statistical modeling (STATA, R); web data collection (JavaScript, JSON)
- **Interests:** Greek mythology; ceramics; historic cooking & recipes

Updated October 2024

References:

Inessa Love	(808) 356 - 9060	ilove@hawaii.edu
Caroline Fry	(857) 234 - 3312	cvfry@hawaii.edu
Teresa Molina	(650) 796 - 6137	tmolina@hawaii.edu
Dylan Moore	(734) 881 - 0673	dtmoore@hawaii.edu

“Star Secrets? Gender differences in the impact of superstar coauthorship in Economics”
(Job Market Paper)

The field of economics grapples with a persistent gender gap, with the underrepresentation of women worsening at higher academic ranks (CSWEP, 2020). This paper investigates how gender shapes the benefits of collaboration with highly successful economists, or "superstars." Specifically, I examine whether early coauthorship with a female superstar has a differential impact on the publication success of junior researchers compared to coauthorship with a male superstar. Using a difference-in-differences with a matched sample design, I find that junior women who coauthor with female superstars experience significantly better publication outcomes compared to those who coauthor with male superstars. In contrast, junior men appear to perform similarly regardless of the gender of their superstar coauthor. These findings suggest that female superstars may offer unique benefits to junior women that encourage publication success. These results highlight the importance of gender-specific factors in shaping success in economics and suggest that ongoing efforts for supporting women in economics should consider gender-specific approaches.

“The Price of Mistrust: The impact of a medical ethics scandal on scientific capacity in sub-Saharan Africa”
(with Caroline Fry), *Industry and Innovation*, forthcoming

This study investigates how negative news alleging ethical misconduct in clinical trials can hinder scientific development in emerging economies. We examine a 2000 exposé surrounding a clinical trial conducted in Northern Nigeria, leading to decades of community mistrust in foreign pharmaceutical companies. By comparing scientific output of researchers in affected and less affected regions, we find a significant decline in publication growth, particularly for medical researchers. An exploration of the mechanisms suggests that eroded community support and participation in research and reduced international collaboration contributed to this slowdown. This study highlights the importance of the science-community relationship in fostering scientific development. Our findings imply that a 'social license to operate' grounded in community trust is essential for scientific progress, and that future research on the determinants of scientific capacity in developing countries should consider community attitudes and involvement.

“Ranking researchers: Evidence from Indonesia”
(with John Lynham and Caroline Fry), *Research Policy*, 2023

In the span of three years, Indonesia went from being the second worst to the top producer of scientific journal articles in Southeast Asia. We investigate whether a transparent system of ranking every single researcher in the country based on publications and citations (SINTA) contributed to this turnaround. Using panel data from over 200,000 Indonesian researchers (and comparing to researchers from Thailand and the Philippines), we show that the implementation of SINTA coincides with changes in the production of publications by Indonesian researchers consistent with the weights used in the ranking formula. Although we see modest improvements in publication rates in top-ranked journals, 62% of the observed increase in total publications is from conference proceedings. Because SINTA was launched around the same time as other policies that focused on increasing publications, isolating the precise impact of SINTA remains challenging. Nevertheless, after accounting for such policies, our results imply that a ranking and evaluation system for researchers can contribute to overall improvements in scientific capacity in low- and middle-income countries.