

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]

Policymakers worldwide confront two common strategies to address inequality across regions: place-based tax incentives that aim to attract firms to disadvantaged areas and easing migration barriers for people to leave these regions for better opportunities. What are the individual and combined effects of large-scale changes in these policies on spatial inequality?

This paper quantifies the effects of these policies on spatial inequality in the unique context of Vietnam where both were implemented on a national scale. 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. The policy specifics and data motivate the development of a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model that allows rich interactions between geography, policies, occupational choices, migration, congestion, and agglomeration effects. Tax incentives can attract firms but can reduce public services, while eased migration barriers can lead to higher congestion in productive regions. 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 reduce spatial inequality since they attract firms without compromising the provision of public services. Easing migration barriers to developed areas, while reducing inequality, also decreases welfare in these cities. Combining tax incentives in underdeveloped regions and lowers migration barriers to developed ones is more effective at reducing spatial inequality than each policy alone.

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.