

TRINH PHAM

KDI School of Public Policy and Management
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, August 2024 – present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, May 2024

Dissertation Title: “Essays in Development and Environmental Economics”

Dissertation Committee: Christopher B. Barrett, John F. Hoddinott, Ariel Ortiz-Bobea

M.P.P. Regional Development and Environment, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, 2017

Summa Cum Laude, Salutatorian

Minor in Sustainable Development

B.Ec. International Economic Relations, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, 2015

Honours with Distinction

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. “Structural Transformation, Agriculture, Climate, and the Environment.” (2023). *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, Vol 17, No 2, with Christopher B. Barrett and Ariel Ortiz-Bobea.
2. “The Child Education and Health Ethnic Inequality Consequences of Climate Shocks in Vietnam.” (2022). *Economics of Education Review*, Vol 90, 102311.
3. “The Intertemporal Evolution of Agriculture and Labor over a Rapid Structural Transformation: Lessons from Vietnam.” (2020). *Food Policy*, Vol 94, 101913, with Yanyan Liu, Christopher B. Barrett, and William Violette.

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Climate Change and Intersectoral Labor Reallocation in a Developing Country”

Recipient of the Distinguished PhD Research Paper Award by the Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics (NEUDC 2023, Harvard Kennedy School)

Abstract: I present a simple model to reconcile different findings in the prior climate-employment literature, incorporating roles for trade openness and intersectoral switching costs. Using Vietnamese data, I provide new evidence consistent with the model’s predictions. In most places, heat induces an outflow of workers from agriculture to non-agriculture in both the short and long terms. While all workers are equally likely to take an informal non-agricultural job, younger individuals incur lower costs and comprise most of those moving into formal non-agriculture. In places

less integrated into global markets, the reallocation runs in the opposite direction due to general equilibrium effects.

2. “Temperature Change and Factor-Biased Agricultural Technological Change when Labor Endowment Matters”

Abstract: This paper examines how farmers respond to increasing temperatures. Utilizing microdata from Vietnamese households, I find that extreme heat negatively affects agricultural productivity. However, its impact on agricultural output varies among households with different labor resources. Young farming households, whose production is less affected by extreme heat, also undergo significant changes in input utilization: they rely less on household labor and increasingly adopt machinery. Conversely, older farming households do not make substantial adjustments and suffer more adverse impacts of extreme heat on overall output. These findings align with the notion that farmers adjust inputs as short-term responses to mitigate extreme heat’s impact on output, while navigating non-farm labor market options that differentiate among workers of different cohorts. Supporting evidence indicates that young farming households encounter labor supply constraints, leading them to intensify the use of labor-saving inputs when faced with significant labor shortages due to extreme heat.

3. “Career Mentoring, Educational Preferences, and Decision-Making: Evidence from Field Experiments in Bhutan,” with Hyuncheol Bryant Kim, Norihiko Matsuda, and Ryotaro Hayashi

Abstract: We use data from two separate randomized control trials to study whether career mentoring influences the educational preferences and decision-making of Bhutanese high and middle-school students. These mentoring programs provide information about Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education systems, labor market outcomes, and mentors’ experience in respective fields. Despite the contrasting levels of recognition and stigma associated with TVET and STEM, both programs generate greater interest among students, as indicated by their stated preferences. However, this heightened interest does not translate into increased applications and enrollment. We interpret these findings as supporting the importance of non-monetary factors in shaping educational decision-making.

SELECTED WORK-IN-PROGRESS

1. “Meta-analytic Review of Climate and Pollution Impacts on Human Capital,” with Patrick Behrer, Teevrat Garg, Alaka Holla, Trevor Dean Arnold, and Adriana Molina
2. “Environmental and Economic Impacts of Place-based Policies”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University (Teaching Evaluation Mean Scores)

† denotes Master’s level courses

TA, Applied Econometrics†, Professor Brian Dillon, Fall 2021/2023 (4.50/5.00)

Co-instructor, Math and Statistics camp for incoming Master’s students, Summer 2022

TA, Economics of Developing Countries, Professor Brian Dillon, Spring 2021/2022 (4.50/5.00)

TA, Research and Methods†, Professors Mark Conostas and Aija Leiponen, Fall 2020 (4.60/5.00)

TA, Risk Simulation and Monte Carlo Methods†, Professor Calum Turvey, Spring 2020 (4.65/5.00)

TA, Introduction to Economics of Development, Professor Steven Kyle, Fall 2019 (3.63/5.00)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

World Bank Group, Short-term Consultant, April 2022-June 2022

Project “Meta-analytic Reviews of Literature on Climate Change and Human Capital”

Asian Development Bank, Short-term Consultant, April 2021-March 2022

Project “Impact Evaluation for Skills Training and Education Pathways Upgradation”

Cornell University, RA for Professor Christopher B. Barrett, 2018-2020

KDI School of Public Policy and Management, RA for Professor Booyuel Kim, 2017-2018

VNU-Hanoi Institute for Economic and Policy Research, Researcher, 2016-2018

Project “Labor Productivity and Wage Growth in Vietnam”

Project “Development Characteristics of SME Sector in Vietnam: Evidence from the Vietnam Enterprise Census 2006-2015”

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference, Workshop, and Seminar Presentations (*including scheduled*)

2024: University of Melbourne, Taipei School of Economics and Political Science (National Tsing Hua University)

2023: Midwest International Economic Development Conference, Climate Economics Pipeline Workshop (Harvard Kennedy School), Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, LSE Environment Week (London School of Economics), Development Workshop (Cornell University), North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC, Harvard University), Applied Economics and Policy Seminar Series (Cornell University), KDI School of Public Policy and Management

2021: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (online)

Journal Referee Service

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Economics of Education Review, International Journal of Educational Development, Journal of Development Studies

Other Service

Application Reviewer and Co-Mentor for STAARS Fellows Program, 2020-2021

Reviewer for Jobs and Development Conference 2024

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics

Weiss Family Distinguished PhD Research Paper Award at NEUDC 2023, Harvard Kennedy School

Cornell University, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

First Place, George F. Warren Award for outstanding research paper written in 2024 by a Dyson graduate student while in residence at Cornell University

Cornell University, Graduate School

Graduate School Fellowship Spring 2024, Conference Travel Grant 2021-2023

KDI School of Public Policy and Management

Outstanding Thesis & Academic Excellence 2016, Global Ambassador Scholarship 2015-2016

Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City

“Student of Five Merits” 2014, University of Economics and Law Dean’s List 2011-2015

Other Organizations

Rencontres du Vietnam Odon Vallet Scholarship 2015, POSCO Asia Fellowship 2014, American Chamber of Commerce in Ho Chi Minh City Scholarship 2014

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: Vietnamese (native), English (fluent), Korean (intermediate)