

Duong Trung Le

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

2019 (Expected)	Ph.D., Economics	Binghamton University, New York
2014	MBA, Management Information System	Binghamton University, New York
2012	B.S., Financial Engineering	Binghamton University, New York

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Public Policy

WORKING PAPERS

“Infrastructure Grants and the Performance of Microenterprises” (joint with Ritam Chaurey)

Presentations: NEUDC (Cornell 2018), Johns Hopkins-SAIS (Washington D.C. 2018), Young Economists Symposium (Yale 2017), Northeastern Association of Business, Economics & Technology (Penn State 2017), ACEGD ISI (New Delhi 2018), Eastern Economic Association (Boston 2018), George Mason (2018), EPED (Montreal 2018)

“Government Centralization and Firm Performance: Evidence from the Dissolution of District Councils in Vietnam”

*Presentations: NEUDC (Cornell 2018), Vietnam Economists Annual Meeting (Ha Noi 2018, *Best Research Paper Award*), Missouri Valley Economic Association (Memphis 2018), Cornell (2018 - scheduled)*

“Is Tomorrow Another Day? Coping with an Environmental Disaster: Evidence from Vietnam” (joint with Trung Hoang, Ha Nguyen, and Nguyen Vuong)

Presentations: NEUDC (Cornell 2018), University of Wisconsin-Madison (2018-scheduled)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Foreign Direct Investments under Political Disturbance: Evidence from a Territorial Dispute”

“Governance Quality and the Formalization of Household Business” (joint with Ha Nguyen and Anh Pham)

“The Impact of Highways on the Social Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities” (joint with Nguyen Vuong)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Labor Economics and Industrial Relations - Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Microeconomics - Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016
Microeconomics Theory - Fall 2018
U.S. Financial Markets & Institutions - Summer 2016
Introduction to Financial Economics - Fall 2014, Fall 2017
Public Expenditures - Fall 2014
Collective Decisions - Spring 2018
Corporate Economics - Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Economics of Corporate Strategies (graduate) - Fall 2017

HONORS AND GRANTS

Best Research Paper Award, 11th Vietnam Economists Annual Meeting, June 2018
Economics Department's Nomination for Binghamton University's Graduate Student Excellence Award in Research, 2018-2019
Dissertation Year Fellowship, Economics Department, Binghamton University, Spring 2019
Graduate Student Assistantship, SUNY Binghamton Department of Economics, 2014-2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2018 North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC Cornell) – Ithaca, NY
 Missouri Valley Economic Association – Memphis, TN
 Vietnam Economists Annual Meeting – Ha Noi, Vietnam
 Eastern Economics Association Annual Meeting – Boston, MA
2017 Young Economist Symposium (Yale University) – New Haven, CT
 Northeastern Association of Business, Economics & Technology – State College, PA

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

February 2014 - June 2014	Equity Research Intern - National Securities Corp.	New York, NY
May 2012 - August 2012	Investments Intern - UBS Financial Services Inc.	New York, NY

COMPUTER SKILLS

Stata, R, ArcGIS, Python, Visual Basic

PERSONAL

Citizenship: Vietnamese
Languages: English, Vietnamese

REFERENCE

Solomon W. Polachek (Advisor)
University Distinguished Professor
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ABSTRACTS

Government Centralization and Firm Performance: Evidence from the Dissolution of District Councils in Vietnam (Job Market Paper)

This paper evaluates the aggregate and distributional effects of government centralization on firm performance. I study a national-level pilot in Vietnam, which dissolved a layer of local government in a representative subset of provinces. I find that the pilot had negligible effects on large firms but led to a significant increase in the performance of small enterprises -- those most constrained by the local bureaucratic environment. Several evidences suggest that a reduction in corruption was an important mechanism. First, firm-level survey data on governance quality indicates that small firms pay a greater fraction of revenue in bribes. Second, empirical result shows that the pilot lowered both the likelihood and incentive of small firms paying bribes, but did not affect the provision of government services. Finally, I find that the improvement was concentrated in rural areas, where there is a weaker monitoring of local government officials.

JEL Classification: O12, O38, O43

Keywords: centralization, local government, firms, bureaucracy, corruption

Infrastructure Grants and the Performance of Microenterprises (joint with Ritam Chaurey)

We evaluate the impact of a place-based infrastructure development scheme directed towards India's most "backward" districts, on the performance of microenterprises. We exploit the policy's unique selection mechanism such that eligible districts were selected based on a transparent score-based index. Using a Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity Design, we find that firms in treated districts had higher profits, revenues, and employment post-treatment. We identify that improvement in electrification was an important channel driving these results, as treated locations became gradually brighter at night, and that firms reported using more electricity and had a lower likelihood of facing power cuts. We also find increases in migrants, and the proportion of new firms in treated districts, along with negative spillovers in areas closer to the treated districts.

JEL Classification: O12, O18, O25, R11

Keywords: infrastructure grants, place-based policy, microenterprises, regression discontinuity design

Is Tomorrow Another Day? Coping with an Environmental Disaster: Evidence from Vietnam (joint with Trung Hoang, Ha Nguyen, and Nguyen Vuong)

We examine the coping mechanisms of fishermen to a large-scale environmental disaster in 2016, when toxic industrial waste contaminated the marine ecosystem of Vietnam's central coast. Combining labor force surveys with a novel satellite data of boat detection, we find significant negative effects on fishing activities and fishermen's income. The labor-market effects and subsequent fishermen's responses are heterogeneous by locations. Upstream fishermen could travel to safer fishing grounds. Downstream fishermen, instead, endured severe impact and were more likely to quit fishing or have secondary jobs. Using a spatial regression discontinuity design, we exploit the discontinuity in fishing eligibility at the official fishing ban's threshold and show that fishermen were more likely responding to the contamination, rather than to the fishing ban policy. Our spillover analysis indicates that saltwater fishermen in the neighboring unaffected provinces, and freshwater fishermen, benefited from the incident.

JEL Classification: J30, O13, Q52

Keywords: environmental disaster, coping mechanisms, satellite detection, fisheries