THAO TRANG NGUYEN

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EDUCATION

PhD of Innovation, Economics and Governance for Development, UNU-Merit, Maastricht University, Netherlands — *2020 - present*

Coursework

- Economics of Innovation/ Socio-economic Development/ Public Program Evaluation/ Quantitative methods and microeconomics/ Understanding innovation and development as complex sociotechnical processes/ Future labor market/ Innovation in developing countries/ Microeconomics of innovation in developing countries

Thesis proposal

- Essays on the impact of automation at micro- and macro-level

Master of Public Affairs, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, US — *2017 – 2019*

Bachelor of International Business Economics, Foreign Trade University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — *2010 – 2014*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of AI, Labor Studies, Economics of Innovation, Development Economics, International Trade

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Teaching

Lecturer, Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *2016 – Aug 2020*

Lecturer, Organizational Economics, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *2017 – Aug 2020*

Teaching Assistant – Lab Instructor, Data Analysis and Modelling, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University — *Spring 2019*

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *2015*

Supervision

Supervising undergraduate students with their thesis and survey design, Tay Nguyen University — *2015 – Aug 2020*

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Secretary of Youth Union for Class of Lecturers, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *Sep 2019 – Aug 2020*

Academic Advisor, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *Sep 2019 – Aug 2020*

PRESENTATIONS

Ronald Coase Institute Workshop on Institutional Analysis — *Cancelled*

Seminar on Economics Publications, Department of Economics, Tay Nguyen University — *Nov 2019*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

PhD Fellowship, UNU-Merit, Maastricht University, Netherlands — *Sep 2020 - present*

Teaching Fellowship, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University — *Jan 2019 – May 2019*

Martin Luther King Civil Rights Immersion Trip, Indiana University — *Jan 2019*

Vietnam Young Leader Workshop, Indiana University — *Oct 2018*

Vietnam Young Leaders Award, Vietnamese Government — *2017 - 2019*

Young Southeast Asian Leaders, US Department of State — *2015*

Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Foreign Trade University — *2013*

LANGUAGES

Vietnamese (native), English (fluent)

CITIZENSHIP

Vietnamese

COMPUTER SKILLS

Stata, SAS, R, Access, SQL, ArcGIS

In my thesis, I aim to enhance our understanding of the impact of automation[1] at micro- and at macro-level, taking into account both developed and developing countries' contexts.

Paper 1 is motivated by the observation that there are two main and seemingly contradicting explanations for declining labor share, which are capital-labor substitution and industry concentration. My expectations for this chapter are to use French firms and employment dataset to account for heterogeneity in technology adoption across firms and heterogeneity in capital investment in explaining labor share. In paper 2, I move to examine the impacts of automation at micro level by taking an evidence from French manufacturing firm level dataset. I ask the question whether automation causes reshoring and whether automation causes changes in import quality or reshape patterns of importing locations. My expectations for this chapter are to identify a causal relationship between automation and reshoring, however, contradict to the heated debate on this topic, automation increases firms' productivity, firms' outputs and their imports as well as exports or reshoring does not happen. However, automation may affect the types of products firms choose to import from, or which countries they choose to import. Paper 3 continues the debate of chapter 2 but looks at the shape of structural change and impact of automation on low-income countries, taking an evidence of employment in Vietnam. Looking at a low-income country context may shed a different light because even in the case firms increase their imports after automation, they may require high-quality imported products or move locations to other countries, which in either way, will change the employment structure in a low-income country.

[1] Automation in this proposal is defined as both broad and narrow definition. On broad level, automation also includes some recent technological advances in artificial intelligence and digital adoption from firms. This definition is only used in paper 1. On narrow level (the main definition), automation means robots adoption from firms.