

Economic Workshop on Vietnam

A one-day workshop to be held on 25 February 2009, organised by the Economics Program, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

Venue: College of Business and Economics Faculty Suite (Room 1012B), H W Arndt Building (Building # 25A), Australian National University

Wednesday 25 February 2009

9:50 – 10:00am *Introduction*

Alison Booth, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

10:00 – 11:00am *Use and non-use of health insurance at hospitals: theory & evidence*

Speaker *Ha Trong Nguyen*, Crawford School of Economics and Government, ANU

Discussant *Robert Breunig*, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

11:00 – 12:00 *What difference does participation make? Communes with multiple programs*

Speaker *Hong Quang Doan*, Poverty Reduction & Econ. Management Unit, World Bank in Vietnam

Discussant *Chikako Yamauchi*, Social Policy Evaluation Analysis and Research Centre, ANU

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 14:00 *Evolution of income inequality in Vietnam between 1993 and 2006*

Speaker *Brian McCaig*, Research School of Social Sciences & School of Economics, ANU

Discussant *Bob Gregory*, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

14:00 – 15:00 *Wage distribution in China and Vietnam: Is there any difference?*

Speaker *Lixin Cai*, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne

Discussant *Martine Mariotti*, Research School of Social Sciences & School of Economics, ANU

15:00 – 15:30 *Afternoon tea*

15:30 – 16:30 *Impact of the husband's temporary migration on remaining household members*

Speaker *Yuji Tamura*, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

Discussant *Suiwah Leung*, Crawford School of Economics and Government, ANU

16:30 – 17:30 *Impact of land redistribution on ethnic minority households*

Speaker *Loren Brandt*, Department of Economics, University of Toronto

Discussant *Xiaodong Gong*, Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, ANU

18:30 Dinner LEMON GRASS, Melbourne Building, 65 London Circuit, Civic.



* *Format: 40 minute presentation, 10 minute discussion, 10 minute Q & A session.*

* *Supported by ANU College of Business and Economics & ANU Research School of Social Sciences program 'Productive Australia in the World Economy'.*

* *There is no charge to attend, but participants are asked to email Cris Carey (cris.carey@anu.edu.au) indicating which sessions they are interested in and whether they will attend the dinner.*

* *Organised by Economics Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.*

* *Contacts: brian.mccaig@anu.edu.au yuji.tamura@anu.edu.au <http://econrsss.anu.edu.au>*

Abstracts



Ha Trong Nguyen (ha.trong@anu.edu.au)

Use and non-use of health insurance at hospitals: theory & evidence

This paper proposes a theory to explain the use and non-use of health insurance at hospitals and tests its predictions using data from VHLSS 2006. The empirical results show that using health insurance to pay for outpatient treatment is perceived as an inferior good. Income, however, has no impact on the use pattern of the health insurance card in inpatient treatment. The insured with more information use the health insurance card more often in outpatient but not in inpatient treatment. The ill utilize health insurance more than the healthy in both outpatient and inpatient treatments.

Hong Quang Doan (qdoan@worldbank.org) & Martin Rama

What difference does participation make? Communes with multiple programs

We use the design differences between genuinely CDD programs and more directed programs applied to the same communities to assess impacts on (subjective) assessments along a series of dimensions (from income generation to gender participation).

Brian McCaig (brian.mccaig@anu.edu.au), Dwayne Benjamin & Loren Brandt

Evolution of income inequality in Vietnam, between 1993 and 2006

Between 1993 and 2006 income inequality fell during a period of rapid growth in household income. This pattern is in sharp contrast to the experience of countries such as China where rapid income growth has been accompanied by dramatic increases in inequality. Using household data we provide first-order summary statistics of the changes in income inequality. We decompose income inequality into between and within components by geography and income sources. Furthermore, we explore which sources of income growth have had an equalizing effect and which have caused income inequality to grow.

Lixin Cai (cail@unimelb.edu.au) & Amy Liu

Wage distribution in China and Vietnam: Is there any difference?

While it is known that China's overall income inequality has risen rapidly, Vietnam's has only increased moderately, little is known regarding how their wage inequality contrasts each other. Using data from the Chinese Household Income Project 2002 and the Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey 2002, this paper examines the wage distribution of urban China and Vietnam. It also identifies the determinants and examines the extent to which these determinants may shape the wage distributions differently. This comparative approach will help us understand how market reforms affect labour outcomes in Asian transition economies.

Yuji Tamura (yuji.tamura@anu.edu.au) & Alison Booth

Impact of the husband's temporary migration on the remaining household members

We study the effect of the husband's temporary migration on the remaining household members, using Vietnam Living Standards Surveys 1992-93 and 1997-98. In particular, we examine the impact on the wife's labor supply, the child's labor supply, the child health, the household expenditure on the child's education and health.

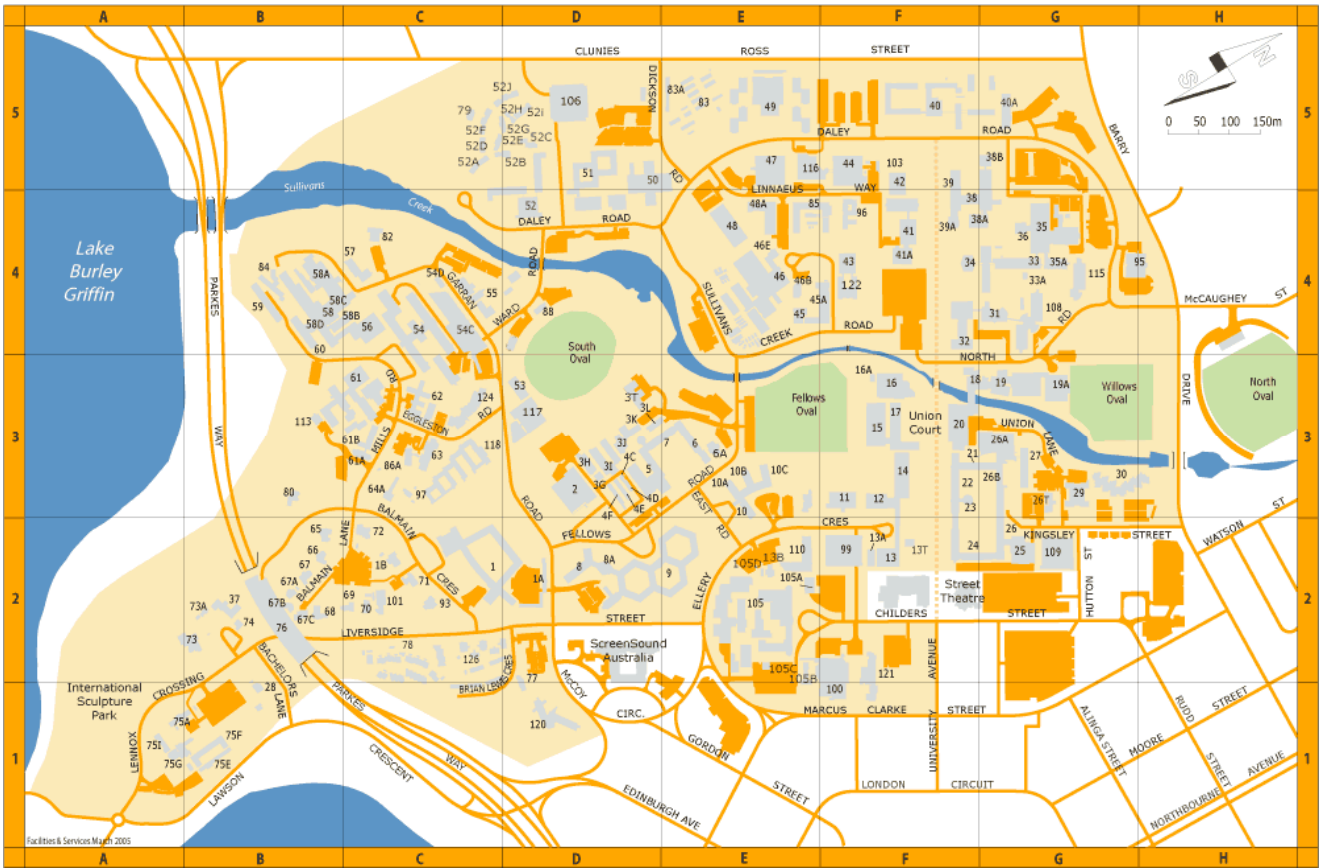
Loren Brandt (brandt@chass.utoronto.ca), Dwayne Benjamin & Brian McCaig

Impact of land redistribution on ethnic minority households in Vietnam

We estimate the impact of a land redistribution program carried out in the Central Highlands region in 2003. The program targeted ethnic minority households who had landholdings below a threshold. Using the 2002 Vietnam Household Living Standard Survey (VHLSS) as our base, we design and implement a re-survey of households in the Central Highlands and neighboring provinces, to obtain a panel of 1650 households. We first analyze the implementation of the policy: were targeted households actually treated, and then estimate the effect of the additional land on a variety of household outcomes.

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ANU Campus Map <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/largemap.asp>

Arndt Building 25A, grid reference GH32

NOTE: Access via Kingsley St is restricted at the moment.

