

Darapheak Tin

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Mobile: +61-456-071-264

EDUCATION

Australian National University

Ph.D. - Economics

DISSERTATION: "Topics in Optimal Design of Taxes and Child Benefits"

Canberra, Australia

2019 - 2025 (expected)

M.A. - Economics

2015 - 2017

University of Toronto

B.B.A. - Economics Specialist

Toronto, Canada

2009 - 2013

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Labor Economics, Macroeconomics, and Public Finance

Secondary: Computational Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

"On the Joint Optimal Design of Taxes and Child Benefits"

[Article](#)

Means-tested child benefits and progressive tax systems both aim to support low-income families, but they often create high and non-linear effective marginal tax rate schedules. This paper explores the joint design of these systems in a dynamic general equilibrium framework that captures household heterogeneity in family structure, female human capital formation, child-related costs, and uninsurable earnings and longevity risks. Based on the Australian policy context, where lump-sum child benefits constitute up to 40% of income for low-income households, I find that optimizing the tax system in isolation risks undermining the redistributive goals of child benefit programs. A joint design featuring low tax progressivity and a universal lump-sum child benefit of approximately 30% of median income is optimal, significantly improving consumption allocative efficiency and overall welfare. However, the associated tax burden adversely impacts non-parent households, raising equity concerns. Furthermore, overly generous child benefits lead to fiscal pressures that harm all households, including the intended beneficiaries. These findings highlight the importance of coordinating tax and child benefit policies to effectively support vulnerable parents, especially low-education single mothers.

WORKING PAPERS

"Child-Related Transfers, Means Testing and Welfare"

2023

(with Chung Tran)

Status: *Under Review (IER)*

[Article](#), [Slides](#)

Should child-related transfers be means-tested or universal? Previous studies focus primarily on the U.S. policy settings, and less is known about other designs. We revisit the question from the Australian policy context. We show that means testing exert significant adverse effects on work incentives and human capital development among married mothers. A structural reform that replaces the status quo means-tested system with a universal system improves female labor supply, output, and overall long-run welfare. However, the universal system increases tax burden by 4 percentage points and negatively impacts single mothers—the intended beneficiaries—by reducing their lifetime after-tax earnings and consumption. Hence, failing to curtail the fiscal costs, the universal system could harm the group it aims to help.

"Sustained Growth and Income Dynamics in Australia"

2024

(with Chung Tran and Nabeeh Zakariyya)

Status: *Ongoing*

What do we know about income growth in Australia? How are incomes distributed, and how do earners move within the income distribution? What does this tell us about income inequality and income mobility over time and over the life cycle, and for different demographic groups? This research addresses these questions through the lenses of Australian administrative data (ALIFE and PLIDA) and household survey data (HILDA).

PUBLICATIONS

”Lifecycle Earnings Risk and Insurance: New Evidence from Australia” 2023

(with Chung Tran)

Economic Record, 99(325): 141-174, 2023

[Article](#), [Slides](#)

This paper studies the nature of earnings dynamics using Australian household survey data. Our results indicate that the distribution of earnings shocks displays negative skewness and excess kurtosis, deviating from the conventional linearity and normality assumptions. Family and government insurance plays distinct roles in reducing exposure to earnings risk. Government insurance embedded in the targeted transfer system is important in mitigating the dispersion of shocks, whereas family insurance via market activities is dominant in reducing the magnitude and likelihood of extreme and rare shocks. The size and persistence of earnings risk as well as the insurance role of family and government vary across gender, marital and parental status. Accounting for these non-Gaussian and non-linearity features is thus important for policy design and evaluation.

Research Grant: This research was supported by the Australian Research Council (Grant: DP210102784).

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Associate Lecturer, Australian National University 2022 - 2023

Economic Policy Issues (undergraduate and graduate)

Mathematical Techniques for Economic Analysis (graduate)

Public Sector Economics (undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant, Australian National University 2017 - 2021, 2024

Microeconomics 1 (undergraduate)

Macroeconomics 1 (undergraduate)

Economics 1 (undergraduate, honours track)

Macroeconomics 2 (undergraduate)

International Economics (undergraduate and graduate)

Public Choice and Politics (undergraduate)

Average score in teacher evaluations: 4.5/5 (detailed reports available upon request)

RESEARCH
POSITION

Core member, Macro Public Finance Lab, Australian National University 2023 - Present

PRESENTATIONS

2025 (scheduled)

American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting (poster)

2024

Joint Workshop by Australasian Macroeconomics Society (WAMS) and

Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance (LAEF)

Labour Econometrics Workshop (LEW)

Australian Conference of Economists (ACE)

Society for Computational Economics 30th International Conference

on Computing in Economics and Finance (CEF)

Macroeconomics Seminar Series 2024 (Australian National University)

2023

37th PhD Conference in Economics and Business (University of Melbourne)

17th Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Conference

2022

21st Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET) Conference

31st Australian Labour Market Research (ALMR) Workshop

PhD Workshop (Australian National University)

Tax and Transfer Policy Institute (TTPI) Seminar Series

(Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University)

Macroeconomics Seminar Series 2024 (Australian National University)

2021

Workshop of the Australasian Macroeconomics Society (WAMS)
 ALife Conference (Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University)
 PhD Workshop (Australian National University)

SOFTWARE	Primary: Fortran, Stata Secondary: MATLAB (+Dynare), Python, R														
LANGUAGES	Native: Cambodian/Khmer Fluent: English (IELTS 8.5) Work-in-progress: Japanese, Turkish														
AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS	<table> <tr> <td>Higher Degree Research Scholarships (Australian National University)</td> <td>2019 - 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fourth-Year Honours List for Excellence in Academic Achievement (University of Toronto)</td> <td>2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Prize for Excellence in Academic Achievement (Royal University of Phnom Penh)</td> <td>2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admission Scholarships (Royal University of Phnom Penh)</td> <td>2009</td> </tr> </table>	Higher Degree Research Scholarships (Australian National University)	2019 - 2023	Fourth-Year Honours List for Excellence in Academic Achievement (University of Toronto)	2013	First Prize for Excellence in Academic Achievement (Royal University of Phnom Penh)	2009	Admission Scholarships (Royal University of Phnom Penh)	2009						
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/ SERVICES	<p>External Reviewer</p> <table> <tr> <td>Green Ideals: Exploring Sustainability in ASEAN and Beyond</td> <td>September 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assessment of Land Resources and Economic Potential of Land Use Transformation in Cambodia</td> <td>September - November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambodian Financial Technology Development Policy</td> <td>June 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prosperity or Distress? An Impact Assessment of Microfinance in Cambodia</td> <td>May - June 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate Economic Growth Impact Model</td> <td>February - April 2018</td> </tr> </table> <p>Co-Author</p> <table> <tr> <td>UN Environment Programme and Korea Environment Institute Report Environmental Sustainability in Asia: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</td> <td>March - June 2019</td> </tr> </table> <p>Intern</p> <table> <tr> <td>Climate Change Trust Fund Secretariat (Under UNDP, EU, SIDA and DANIDA)</td> <td>October 2013 - June 2014</td> </tr> </table>	Green Ideals: Exploring Sustainability in ASEAN and Beyond	September 2024	Assessment of Land Resources and Economic Potential of Land Use Transformation in Cambodia	September - November 2023	Cambodian Financial Technology Development Policy	June 2023	Prosperity or Distress? An Impact Assessment of Microfinance in Cambodia	May - June 2023	Climate Economic Growth Impact Model	February - April 2018	UN Environment Programme and Korea Environment Institute Report Environmental Sustainability in Asia: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	March - June 2019	Climate Change Trust Fund Secretariat (Under UNDP, EU, SIDA and DANIDA)	October 2013 - June 2014
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REFERENCES	<p>Associate Professor: Chung Tran Research School of Economics, Australian National University chung.tran@anu.edu.au +61 2 6125 5638</p> <p>Emeritus Professor: Robert G. Gregory Research School of Economics, Australian National University bob.gregory@anu.edu.au +61 2 612 52192</p> <p>Associate Dean (Education): Dana Hanna College of Business and Economics, Australian National University dana.hanna@anu.edu.au +61 2 6125 4487</p>														