

# NHAN LE

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(Updated 11/2014)

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Economics Department  
Williams School of Commerce  
Washington & Lee University  
Lexington, VA 24450

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Macroeconomics  
Technological change, economic growth, income distribution  
Secondary: Applied Econometrics, International development and trade

## EDUCATION (Indiana University - Bloomington, IN)

1. Ph.D. 12/2012
2. M.A. Economics 08/2009
3. B.A. Economics and B.S. Mathematics, *both with High Distinction* 05/2006

## DOCTORAL DISSERTATION TITLE (Completed December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012)

“The Effects of Technological Change on Labor Productivity and Wage Inequality”

Date of Defense: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Committee: Michael Kaganovich (Chair), Michael Alexeev, Robert Becker, Bulent Guler

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Washington &amp; Lee University</b>	<b>2013-present</b>
<b>Bucknell University</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
<u>Visiting Assistant Professor</u>	
Principles of Macroeconomics	(6 sections)
Principles of Microeconomics	
Introduction to Applied statistics	
Intermediate Macroeconomics	(4 sections)
Topics in Economics: Inequality – Labor productivity and Globalization	(2 sections)
<b>Indiana University – Bloomington</b>	<b>2007-2012</b>
<u>Associate Instructor - full teaching responsibility:</u>	
Introduction to Microeconomics, Macroeconomics	(5 sections)
Intermediate Macroeconomics	Summer & Fall 2011
Survey of Public Finance	Spring 2010
Survey of International Trade	Spring 2009
<u>Teaching Assistant:</u>	
Intro level courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics and business statistics	

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Presentation at Washington University, St. Louis Economics Conference 10/2009, 10/2012  
Presentation at the Midwest Econometrics Group 10/2010  
Referee for *Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics & Econometrics* (University of California, Berkeley)

## JOB MARKET PAPER

*Occupation or Ability? An Empirical Assessment of the Effects of Computerization on Labor Productivity in the United States.* This paper evaluates a key proposition of the routinization hypothesis, namely, that the exponential growth of computerization in production activities over the last three decades have led to a steady increase in demand for *cognitive jobs* in the United States and other developed economies. Merging

data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and computer use data by David Autor, I demonstrate that computerization contributes to rising labor productivity for high-ability workers significantly more than for low-ability workers, *regardless of occupational attainment*. This could lead economists to wrongly interpret the interaction between computers and ability as the interaction between computers and occupations. I demonstrate that the existing literature may have significantly overestimated the effect of computerization on demand for cognitive occupations.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

1. *Privatization and productivity growth: The case of Vietnam*. Using a panel data of more than 10,000 firms in Vietnam over 10 years, this project seeks to discover the impact of privatization on firms' productivity growth in Vietnam. Since 1990, the Vietnamese government has gradually privatized many previously state-owned enterprises (SOE) while maintaining control over firms in industries it considered strategically important. Since, there has been an explosion of private firms in most industries. Preliminary results show that former SOEs appeared more productive than private firms of similar size but only in the first few years after privatization. Productivity growth has concentrated most among private manufacturing firms. Firms indirectly influenced by governmental connection still dominate the capital market and appear to slow aggregate productivity.
2. *Trade Liberalization and the Skill Premium – the Role of Education*
3. *Wage Dispersion and Skill Premium in the United States During the 1980s - The Role of Primary Factor Frictions* (presented at the Midwest Econometrics Group)

### HONORS

#### Undergraduate:

Outstanding Senior Student Award, Department of Economics and Mathematics	05/2006
Phi Beta Kappa: Gamma of Indiana Inductee for Excellent Academic Achievement	05/2006

#### Graduate:

Award for Excellence in Graduate Economic Theory, Department of Economics	05/2011
Award for Best Third-year Paper, Department of Economics	09/2009

### OTHER INFORMATION

Computer skills: Stata, Matlab

Languages: English, Vietnamese

Nationality: Vietnam

Student activities: Representative of the Dept. of Economics at IU Graduate & Professional Student Association

### REFERENCES

Professor **Michael Kaganovich**

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Professor **Michael Alexeev**

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**TEACHING:** Professor **Michael Anderson**

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