

Duyen Tran

(Tran Thi Phu-Duyen)

Fairfax, Virginia, USA



Education

- 08/2024 – Present **PhD in Health Services Research (HSR) (concentration: Health Policy)**, *George Mason University, USA*.
Courses completed: Philosophy of Science and Research Methods, Health Care Databases, Advanced Stats in HSR, Data Mining in Healthcare, Causal Inference in HSR, Systematic Literature Review & Meta-Analysis for HSR, Advanced Health Economics, Advanced Empirical Methods in Health Policy Research, Social and Ecological Determinants of Health, Health Informatics Research, Health Policy Development and Analysis
Dissertation: Essays on the Safety Net for Older Americans: Medicare, Social Security, and Disability Insurance
Committee members: Priyanka Anand (GMU), Sita Slavov (GMU, NBER), Alison Cuellar (GMU, NBER)
- 2023 – 2024 **Master of Public Policy (MPP)**, *University of Auckland, New Zealand*
Graduated with First Class Honours, funded by Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship
- 2013 – 2017 **Bachelor's Degree in Economics**, *University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*
Valedictorian of the Planning and Investment Economics Class

Publications

- Peer-reviewed Vo, T.T., **Phu-Duyen, T.T.**, Nguyen, X.D, Truong, T.H. (2025). Trade liberalization and nutrition transition: how export influences households' macronutrient consumption in Vietnam. *Food Security*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-025-01555-3>
- Vo, T.T., **Phu-Duyen, T.T.** (2023). Mental health around retirement: evidence of Ashenfelter's dip. *BMC Global Health Research and Policy*, 8(35). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41256-023-00320-3>
- Nguyen, T. H., Nguyen, V. D., **Tran, T.P.D.**, & Nguyen., V. V. (2018). Smart cities analysis framework: Case study of Southeast provinces (Vietnamese). *Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies*, 29(6), 05–26, http://jabes.ueh.edu.vn/Home/SearchArticle?article_Id=f6690858-1c9a-464c-9ca3-20753e6fcdd1
- Technical report **Phu-Duyen, T.T.** (2023). Equitable Rates Relief: A comprehensive analysis of Rates Rebates, Postponement, and Remissions in New Zealand, focusing on seniors and Māori. *Prepared for Te Ara Ahunga Ora/Retirement Commission New Zealand (under older people's policy)*. https://assets.retirement.govt.nz/public/Uploads/Research/2023/Duyen-Tran_TAA0_Equitable-Rates-Relief.pdf

Working Papers

Priyanka Anand, Tran Thi Phu-Duyen, and Sita Slavov, “Does Information Influence the Choice between Social Security Disability and Early Retirement Benefits?,” NBER Working Paper 35748 (2026), <https://www.nber.org/papers/w35748>

Work in Progress

ACA Medicare Part D Coverage Gap Discounts and Labor Supply Among Older Americans (Tran T. Phu-Duyen) [Job market paper]

The Impacts of the Social Security Retirement Earnings Test on Short-term Financial Stress and Health Well-Being (Tran T. Phu-Duyen) [Job market paper]

Mental Health Effects of Raising Retirement Age in the US: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from HRS Data, 1994-2020 (Tran T. Phu-Duyen)

Retirement Financing and Health Outcomes Among Older Australians: How Saving for Retirement Also Saves Lives (Tran T. Phu-Duyen, Paula Lorgelly, Mohammad Salimifar)

Employment

08/2024 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Department of Health Administration and Policy*, College of Public Health, George Mason University

Advisor: Priyanka Anand

Tasks: Analyzing data, conducting literature review, writing manuscripts, and preparing presentation materials.

7/2023 – 11/2023 **Policy Research Officer (internship)**, *Retirement Commission*, Central Government, New Zealand

Tasks: Research independently on rates (tax) relief schemes in New Zealand, create a final report on the institution’s website.

11/2019 – 12/2022 **Research Associate/Project Manager**, *Health and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (HAPRI)*, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH)

Tasks: Conduct Health Economics research, write grant proposals, organize academic conferences, coordinate international research projects, oversee media campaigns, manage a team of ten researchers.

Presentations

2025 AUPHA Annual Meeting (Columbus, OH), 14th Australasian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), iHEA Congress (Bali, Indonesia), APHA Annual Meeting (Washington D.C.), SEA Annual Meeting (Tampa, FL)

Leadership & Service

6/2026 – Present **Vice President**, AcademyHealth Student Chapter at George Mason University

8/2025 – 5/2026 **Organizer**, PhD Health Service Research Colloquium, Department of Health Administration and Policy, George Mason University

7/2023 – 7/2024 **Postgraduate Mentor**, Student Development and Engagement, Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland

Teaching Experience

- 09/2026 Guest lecture: “Health Policy and Human Capital”, Economics of Development (undergraduate course), University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 06/2026 Guest lecture: “Understanding the U.S. Healthcare Payment System”, [Health Services Mentorship Program](#) (for high school students), AcademyHealth x GMU
- 2/2024 – 7/2024 Teaching Assistant, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Classes: [SOCIOLOGY 208](#) - Economy and Society (for Bachelor of Arts students), [POLICY 743](#) - Economics, Budgets and Bureaucrats (for Master of Public Policy students)

Research Grants

- 2023 – 2025 *Project*: The impact of local healthcare quality on domestic immigration decision: the case of Vietnam. *Sponsor*: Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam. *Amount*: \$16,411. *Role*: Key researcher
- 2020 – 2023 *Project*: The impacts of trade liberalization on intra-household allocation and nutrition transition in Vietnam. *Sponsor*: National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED), Vietnam. *Amount*: \$30,633. *Role*: Key researcher

Awards and Honors

- 2025 Runner-up, [AUPHA Doctoral Essay Contest](#). *Essay*: *Mental Health Effects of Raising Full Retirement Age in the US: Quasi-experimental Evidence from HRS Data, 1994-2020*
- 2025 Leader of Tomorrow (top 100 global essay competition), [54th St. Gallen Symposium](#), Switzerland. *Essay*: *Pawn Promotion in the Global Endgame: Aging Population and the Risks of Neglecting Elderly Care for Power in Developing Nations*

Skills

- Research Causal inference, econometrics, systematic review, machine learning prediction models, questionnaire/survey/interview design
- Programming Stata, Python, R, SQL

Other training

- 01/2023 [Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative \(YSEALI\)](#) Public Policy Seminar on Southeast Asia’s economic integration amid global turbulence, at YSEALI Academy, Fulbright University Vietnam.
- 08/2022 **International Development Studies** (online, 15-credit Master course), University of Oslo (UiO) Summer School, Norway. Funded by UiO summer scholarship.
- 03/2022 **Management of Development Projects and Programmes** (online, funded by [Orange Knowledge Programmes \(OKP\)](#) scholarship, MDF Training & Consultancy, the Netherlands.