

VARAN KITAYAPORN

Curriculum vitae

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
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Madison, WI, USA 53706

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D., Agricultural and Applied Economics

expected, Jun 2023

Dissertation: *Essays on international trade and Thailand's economic development*

Committee: Ian Coxhead, Paul Castañeda Dower, and Priya Mukherjee

M.S., Economics

2015

Chulalongkorn University

Bachelor of Economics (1st-class Honor)

2011

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION

Primary: Development Economics, International Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Trade openness and human capital investment in Thailand ([Job market paper])

I study the effects of export growth on the skill premium and educational attainment in Thailand. I develop an overlapping generations model to analyze schooling decisions of households when export growth creates more job opportunities in unskilled sectors. An increase in the unskilled wage can reduce the skill premium and encourage early school dropouts. However, a higher unskilled wage can also enable more schooling among credit-constrained households via an income effect, especially when schooling is not free. The net effect may differ depending on factors like household wealth and the ability of the child. I use Thailand's household data from 1995 to 2019 to empirically test my model's predictions, exploiting provincial variation in trade exposure. The results show that the effect of the fall in skill premium slightly dominates the income effect, leading to a net decrease of 0.1-0.6 percentage points in school enrollment for each one percent increase in export exposure. Nonetheless, the effect of export exposure is likely to be more positive among highly credit-constrained households and among children of higher ability.

Exports growth and intergenerational educational mobility in Thailand

Exports expansion has long been the main driver of Thailand's economic growth since the 1990s. On the other hand, inequality is also a persisting problem in Thailand, albeit recent data shows some signs of easing. I study whether Thailand's rapid export expansion increases its intergenerational educational mobility through changes in the labor market. Thailand's specialization

in less-skill-intensive exports implies relatively faster growth in unskilled workers' wages. Using an overlapping generation model with credit constraints, discuss how this increase in unskilled wages could increase the educational attainment of children of less-educated parents. Besides, the decrease in skill premium may disincentivize investment in human capital and thus reduces persistence in educational attainment across generations. I empirically study the effects of exports on intergenerational educational mobility using Thailand's household data from 1995 to 2019. Using variations in provincial labor shares and time of exposure to export shocks, I find that export exposure increases intergenerational mobility. Upward mobility is more prevalent among poorer households, suggesting the role of income effects on credit-constrained households. Downward mobility is likely to be mainly driven by people who quit school to join blue-collar, export-oriented industries.

Asian regional integration and educational development in Southeast Asia with Ian Coxhead

We study the effects of Southeast Asia's integration into regional supply chains on its labor market and human capital accumulation. The regional supply chain integration brings economic growth and facilitates the industrialization of lower-income economies in the region. China, the largest economy in the region, plays a critical role in this supply chain. While China remains competitive in some light manufacturing products, such as apparel and footwear, its exports have largely shifted toward heavy manufacturing goods. Recently, China also begins to domesticate its supply chain. Such changes in China's trade patterns can significantly impact the comparative advantages of Southeast Asian countries. This exogenous shock may cause Southeast Asia's comparative advantages to shift toward less-skilled intensive sectors, resulting in smaller returns to skill and human capital investment.

REPORTS

Anukoonwattaka, W. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2018). "Merchandise Trade Recovery under Threat." *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report*, 3-27. United Nations. ([link](#))

Anukoonwattaka, W. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2018). "Commercial Services Trade Recovery at Risks." *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report*, 29-47. United Nations. ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V., S. Wittayarungruangsi, & W. Watnaskolpun (2017). *Analysis of Foreign Investor Confidence in Thailand, 2017*. Report prepared for Thailand Board of Investment.

Wittayarungruangsi, S., **V. Kitayaporn**, N. Kridsadorakul, & P. Kulvanich (2017). *Investment and Business Regulations in South Africa, Tanzania, Ethiopia, United Arab Emirates, and India*. Report prepared for Thailand Board of Investment.

Pimukmanaskit, K., C. Wuthijanyarak, **V. Kitayaporn**, & N. Kritiyothin (2017). *Strategic Linkages between Manufacturing and Services Industries in Thailand under the Context of Globalization - Phase II*. Report prepared for Thailand Office of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Industry. ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V., C. Khanti-Akom, W. Watnaskolpun, & N. Poothong (2017). *Translation of the final text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement*. Report prepared for Thailand Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce.

Kitayaporn, V., S. Wittayarungruangsi, & W. Watnaskolpun (2016). *Analysis of Foreign Investor Confidence in Thailand, 2016*. Report prepared for Thailand Board of Investment.

- Pimukmanaskit, K., N. Viroonhausava, **V. Kitayaporn**, & N. Kridsavorakul (2016). *Investment Opportunities and Industry Analysis in Southeast Asian Countries*. Report prepared for Thailand Board of Investment.
- Pimukmanaskit, K., W. Watnaskolpun, **V. Kitayaporn** (2016). *Potentials for Facilitation of Cross-Border Trade of Key Agricultural Commodities in Borders of Kayin State, Myanmar and Tak Province, Thailand*. Report prepared for Mekong Institute.
- Pimukmanaskit, K., C. Wuthijanyarak, **V. Kitayaporn**, & W. Watnaskolpun (2016). *Strategic Linkages between Manufacturing and Services Industries in Thailand under the Context of Globalization*. Report prepared for Thailand Office of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Industry. ([link](#))
- Pakvisal, P., C. Khanti-Akom, **V. Kitayaporn**, W. Watnaskolpun, N. Kridsavorakul, & S. Siribansop (2015). *Trade Liberalization of Thailand's Trade Partners and Competitors and Its Effects on Thailand*. Report prepared for Thailand Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce. ([link](#))
- Kitayaporn, V.** & W. Watnaskolpun (2014). *Economic Cooperation of ASEAN after the 2015 Economic Community Integration*. Report prepared for Thailand Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce. ([link](#))
- Pakvisal, P., **V. Kitayaporn**, & N. Viroonhausava (2013). *Evaluation of Government's Housing Policy: Outputs, Outcomes, Impacts, and Stakeholder's Assessment*. Report prepared for the National Housing Authority of Thailand.
- Pakvisal, P., **V. Kitayaporn**, & I. Suttakulpiboon (2013). *Mortgage and Delinquency Management of the National Housing Authority*. Report prepared for the National Housing Authority of Thailand.
- Pakvisal, P. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2012). *Business model for sunk-cost property management*. Report prepared for the National Housing Authority of Thailand.
- Yanprechaset, P. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2012) *Negotiation Guideline and Expected Impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement on Thailand*. Report prepared for Thailand Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce. ([link](#))
- Yanprechaset, P. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2011) *Business Data Linkages and Management in ASEAN Economic Community*. Report prepared for Thailand Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division

Consultant

2021 – present

Economic Affairs Intern

2018

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Research Assistant

2019

Bolliger & Company (Thailand) Co., Ltd.*Assistant Manager*

2015 – 2017

Research Assistant

2014

Bryan Cave (Thailand) Co., Ltd.*Research Analyst*

2011 – 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

AAE 352 - Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy

Teaching Assistant (~90 undergraduate students)

2022

AAE 721 - Professional Communication of Applied Economic Analysis

Teaching Assistant (~20 Master's students)

2020 & 2022

MATH 213 - Calculus and Introduction to Differential Equations

Teaching Assistant (~70 undergraduate students)

2020 – 2021

CNSRSCI 477 - The Consumer and the Market

Teaching Assistant (~40 undergraduate students)

2021

AAE 474 - Economic Problems of Developing Areas

Grader

2019 & 2021

AAE 350 - World Hunger and Malnutrition

Grader

2019 – 2020

AAE 473 - Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia

Grader

2019

AAE 477 - Agricultural & Economic Development of Africa

Grader

2018 – 2019

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the PacificTrade and Sustainable Development Goals ([link](#))*Instructor's Assistant and User Interface Designer*

2021 – present

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

Kitayaporn, V. (2017). "Thailand in Tier 2 Watch List in 2017 TIP Report." *Trade Digest*, 4(13). ([link](#))**Kitayaporn, V.** (2017). "Qatar's Diplomatic Strain Sparks Concerns in Middle East." *Trade Digest*, 4(11). ([link](#))**Kitayaporn, V.** (2017). "Thailand and the Special 301 Report." *Trade Digest*, 4(9). ([link](#))**Kitayaporn, V.** (2017). "Trump to scrutinize countries with trade imbalance, including Thailand." *Trade Digest*, 4(7). ([link](#))**Kitayaporn, V.** (2017). "Global trade and investment under the growing threat of economic nationalism." *Bolliger Insight*, 1(1). ([link](#))**Kitayaporn, V.** (2017). "New Taxation Measures on E-Commerce on the Way." *Trade Digest*, 4(5). ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V. (2017). “New Investment Promotion Act Now in Effect.” *Trade Digest*, 4(3). ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V. (2017). “Growing Concerns over Protectionism as Western World is Turning Right.” *Trade Digest*, 4(1). ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V. (2016). “Japan aims to end GSP for Thailand but limited effects expected.” *Trade Digest*, 3(21). ([link](#))

Kitayaporn, V. (2016). “US Presidential Election and the Fate of TPP” *Trade Digest*, 3(18). ([link](#))

Chiasakul, R. & **V. Kitayaporn** (2016). “Trans-Pacific Partnership: Eased Concern for the TPP Compared to Previous Speculation.” *Thai-American Business*, 5, 22-24. The American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand. ([link](#))

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Thai (native), English (proficient), Spanish (intermediate), French (intermediate)
Computer Programs: STATA, MATLAB, R, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

REFERENCES

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