

LINH T. TÔ
<https://scholar.harvard.edu/linhto>
linhto@fas.harvard.edu

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: John Campbell
Placement Director: Nathan Hendren
Assistant Director: Brenda Piquet

JOHN_CAMPBELL@HARVARD.EDU 617-496-6448
NHENDREN@FAS.HARVARD.EDU 617-496-3588
BPIQUET@FAS.HARVARD.EDU 617-495-8927

Office Contact Information

Littauer Center, 1805 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone number: 617-855-5464

Personal Information:

Citizenship: Vietnam, US Permanent Resident

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Mathematics and Economics, Macalester College, *magna cum laude*

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2013 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “*Information and Labor Market Preferences*”

Expected Completion Date: June 2019

References:

Professor Edward Glaeser
Harvard University, Littauer Center 315A
617-495-0575, eglaeser@harvard.edu

Professor Lawrence F. Katz
Harvard University, Littauer Center 224
617-495-5148, lkatz@harvard.edu

Professor Claudia Goldin
Harvard University, Littauer Center 229
617-613-1200, cgoldin@harvard.edu

Professor Elie Tamer
Harvard University, Littauer Center 125
617-496-1526, elietamer@fas.harvard.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Labor Economics, Public Economics

Secondary fields: Behavioral Economics, Applied Econometrics

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2018	Economics 2140—Econometric Theory (graduate), Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Professor Elie Tamer
Spring 2016	Economics 2030—Psychology and Economics (graduate), Harvard University Guest Lecturer for Professor Andrei Shleifer and David Laibson
Fall 2015 and 2016	Economics 2182a—Labor Market Analysis (graduate), Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Professor Lawrence Katz
Spring 2015 and 2016	Economics 2010b—Economic Theory (graduate), Harvard University Teaching Fellow for Professor Jerry Green

Research Experience:

2011 to 2013 University of Chicago Booth School of Business
Research Professional for Professors Matthew Gentzkow and Jesse Shapiro

Fellowships and Awards:

2018	INSEAD RCT Lab and the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (with P. Kireyev, T. Phan, and N. Thakral)
2017	Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Award
2017	Harvard Lab for Economic Applications and Policy Grant
2016	Weatherhead Initiative on Gender Inequality Graduate Fellowship
2015, 2016	Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center, Harvard University
2014 to 2017	Arthur Daniel Stillman Fellowship
2013 to 2015	Joseph John Fay III and Phuong-Mai Fay Graduate Fellowship
2013 to 2014	Douglas Dillon Fellowship

Professional Activities:

Conferences and
Invited Seminars NBER Summer Institute 2016 (Discussion), Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) Summer Workshop 2017, University of Tübingen 2018, Aarhus University 2018, NBER Summer Institute 2018 (Discussion)

Referee Service *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Research Papers:

“The Signaling Role of Parental Leave” (Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the signaling role of workers' parental leave choices theoretically and empirically. Human capital theory predicts that wages should depend on the absolute duration of time out of work. However, using administrative data from Denmark, I find that women who take a given amount of leave earn higher wages after returning to work if other mothers, in the same childbirth cohort, take longer leaves. The importance of relative leave duration suggests the possibility that leave duration choices signal labor market preferences. I develop a model which posits that firms infer private information about commitment to work through their choice of forgoing paid leave to return to work early. The model delivers distinct predictions of the signaling channel of parental leave when there is an exogenous change in the maximum allowed paid leave duration. I test these predictions using unanticipated leave extension policies in Denmark. I show that changing the equilibrium has indirect effects in changing the signals that are sent by all workers, and also has direct effects in terms of labor market consequences. Consistent with the model's predictions, a leave extension causes infra-marginal mothers, whose leave would not have been constrained by the previously lower maximum, to take longer leave. For mothers for whom the previously lower maximum would have been binding, signaling contributes to a divergence in wages due to the information that their choices convey upon a leave extension. The paper provides direct evidence of persistent labor market consequences of signaling in a context in which signaling operates during the course of one's labor market experience.

“Daily Labor Supply and Adaptive Reference Points” (with Neil Thakral)

Revise and Resubmit, *American Economic Review*

This paper provides field evidence on how reference points adjust, a degree of freedom in reference-dependence models. To examine this in the context of cabdrivers' daily labor-supply behavior, we ask how the within-day timing of earnings affects decisions. Drivers work less in response to higher accumulated income, with a strong effect for recent earnings that gradually diminishes for earlier earnings. We estimate a structural model in which drivers work towards a reference point that adjusts

to deviations from expected earnings with a lag. This dynamic view of reference dependence reconciles the “neoclassical” and “behavioral” theories of daily labor supply.

Research in Progress

“The Design of Maternity Leave Policies”

Statutory maternity leave policies are often summarized by two main policy levers, job protection duration and the average benefit ratio as a fraction of existing wage. I analyze how the design of the benefit structure given the same total budget has differential impacts on the choice of leave duration. A higher benefit ratio increases leave take-up at the margin, and a flat lump-sum structure encourages the reduction of leave duration for mothers whose private benefits from leave taking are lower when leave duration is used as a signal. The design structure can have consequences on long-term labor market outcomes as well as on wage inequality among mothers. Using regression-discontinuity results that leverage exogenous policy changes, I estimate preferences of mothers in a dynamic structural model of labor supply. The model allows for an empirical search of policies that can potentially improve welfare while mitigating the long-term labor market consequences for mothers.