

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Summer 2020

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From the Editorial Board

Dear valued readers,

With the government efforts keeping the pandemic spread in Vietnam at bay, the country has been back to the 'new normal' in Summer 2020. At Fulbright, we have proceeded with innovative education and research initiatives to bring authoritative analysis of global headline issues to our community. In early April, our faculty members kicked off the first virtual policy seminars discussing Covid-19 pandemic and its implications for national governance, economic, and welfare system. All online sessions are well attended and highly appreciated by participants as providing comprehensive and in-depth analysis by Fulbright experts.

In early May, 19 graduate students in the first cohort of Leadership and Management concentration successfully defended their graduation theses. These are commendable achievements of LM students after months of hard work under the guidance of FSPPM faculty.

For the class of 2021, our faculty has expanded the classroom boundary by bringing students closer to the policy realities in Binh

Thuan province, a rising region with tourism, thermal electricity, and agricultural potential in Central Vietnam.

As part of our admission activities for the MPP Program in 2020, Open Day and Demo Classes in HCMC took place in late June, attracting around 150 prospective candidates to Crescent Campus to discuss with FSPPM leadership and alumni on the value of the program and how an education in public policy elevates their knowledge and career prospects. Participants could register for the two Demo Classes by two FSPPM senior faculty, Prof. Pham Duy Nghia and Dr. Le Thai Ha.

A detailed elaboration on those exciting events can be found in this issue. We hope you enjoy reading our Summer 2020 Newsletter and share it with your friends, colleagues or anyone interested.

Your readership and support are a great source of inspiration for our works. Thank you!



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

Philanthropist and Former President of South Africa

Highlights



Master in Public Policy: Information Day and Demo Classes in Ho Chi Minh City

As part of the MPP2022 recruitment, on 27 June, the information day and for the very first time, two demo classes on *Consumer Welfare and Policy Analysis* by Dr. Le Thai Ha, and *Hanoi Urban Railway Project, Cat Linh - Ha Dong line* by Prof. Pham Duy Nghia were organized by the FSPPM, attracting more than 140 prospective students. The event provided excellent opportunities for applicants to experience real classroom settings, connect with Fulbright community, and gain insiders' perspectives from current students and alumni. The event has received great support from Fulbright alumni community and our current post-graduate students.

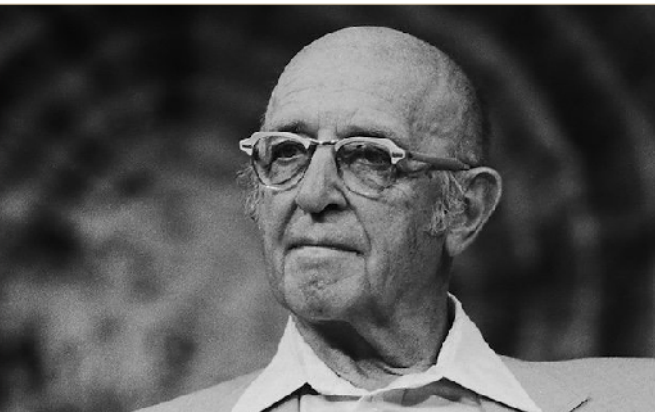


MPP2020 (Leadership and Management) Thesis defense

In May, nineteen out of twenty-four MPP2020-LM (Leadership and Management concentration) students successfully defended their master's theses and met graduation requirements for the master's degree. Graduation thesis can be a policy analysis research or a capstone research project demonstrating practicality in addressing issues and challenges encountered by an institute or organization.

MPP2021 field trip

Regarding *Regional and local development* activities, in June, MPP2021 students undertook a two-day field trip to Binh Thuan province. The class was divided into two groups guided by a lecturer came to their research site to work with local government and businesses to collect data and conduct in-depth interviews for their project analysis.



**“The only person who is educated
is the one who has learned how to
learn ... and change.”**

Carl Rogers

American psychologist and founding fathers of psychotherapy research

New and Updates

Outreach

During the quarter, FSPPM's outreach team continues putting effort into two important research projects"

- *The development of Ho Chi Minh City into an international financial center* funded by Ho Chi Minh City Finance and Investment State-owned company (HFIC). On May 8, 2020, Fulbright University Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh city Finance and Investment State-owned Company (HFIC) signed a cooperation agreement to design a Development Proposal to transform Ho Chi Minh City into a regional and international financial center.

- *Toward a Big Urban Data Facility - Computational Investigation of the Connectivity, Resilience and Demand of The Bus Network in Ho Chi Minh City* granted by Vin Group Innovation Foundation. Some important updates of the project as below:

- The VINIF project team has been scraping and storing location data of all buses operational in HCMC since 12 May 2020 using the team's recently established Big Urban Data Facility (BUDF).

- Completed the first of the project landing page (<https://budf.fulbright.edu.vn/en/>) and a visualization of real time bus locations

 <https://budf.fulbright.edu.vn/projects/busvis/>

- Completed a graph model for topological analysis of the bus network, which was used in identifying corridors in the existing network that are critical to maintaining its connectivity

- Completed the design and coding of the extension of the above graph model to explicitly account for timetable



Alumni relation



This quarter, Friday Talk Initiative was launched where Fulbright School Alumni members share their own experience with current students. On 26 June, the topic *Experiences of alumni during the thesis writing process; and Re-integrating into community after graduation* shared by **Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Uyen (MPP8)**, **Mr. Vo Thanh Trung (MPP20-LM)**, and **Mr. Nguyen Quang Huy (MPP20-PA)**.

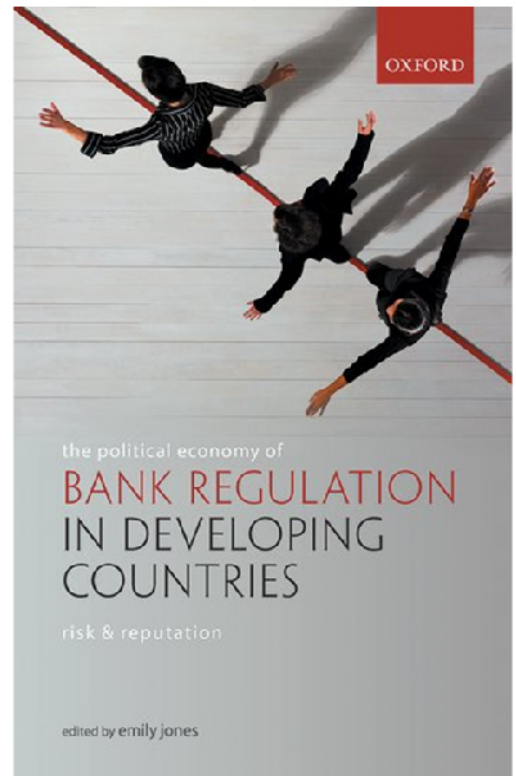
On 23 June, FSA representatives joined the Alumni Happy Hour reception organized by the United State Consulate in HCMC, where they engaged in an informative exchange with Ambassador Dan Kritenbrink on issues relating to the 25th anniversary of Vietnam and the US, especially the success and contribution of the State alumni to strengthening the mutual relationship.



The book chapter **Vietnam: The dilemma of bringing global financial standards to a socialist market economy** in *The Political Economy of Bank Regulation in Developing Countries: Risk and Reputation* by **Dean Vu Thanh Tu Anh** and **Dr. Tran Thi Que Giang**, published by Oxford University Press in 2020



<https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780198841999.001.0001/oso-9780198841999-chapter-13>



The paper **Uniquely Singapore's Tourist City Strategy: Integrated Resorts, Casinos, and Pragmatic Approach**. *IDI Urban Research*, 17: 155-195 (in Korean) by **Dr. Yooil Bae**

The book chapter **Drivers of greenhouse gas emissions in Southeast and East Asia: Evidence from panel data analysis** in *“Energy Sustainability and Development in ASEAN and East Asia”* by **Dr. Le Thai Ha** published in 2020



<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003026075>

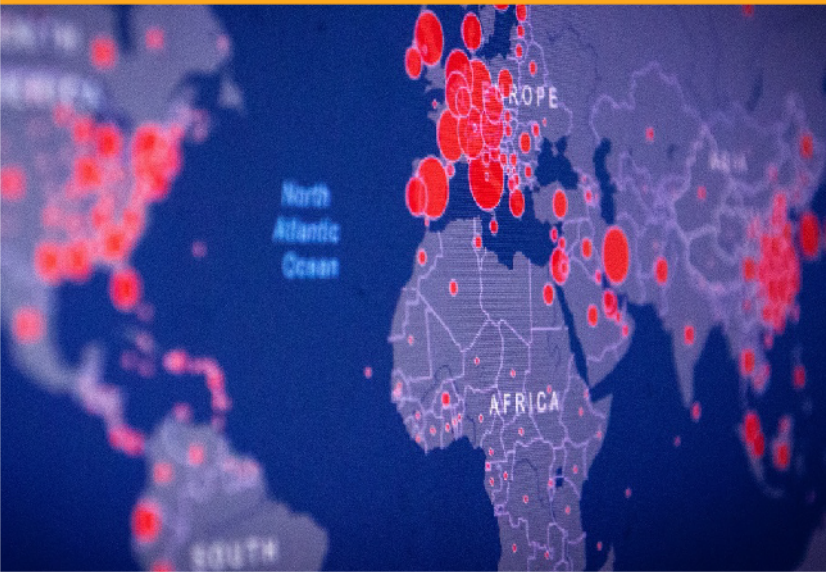
The co-author book chapter **Energy, income, trade and environment nexus: Dynamic Data Analysis for India** in *“Energy Sustainability and Development in ASEAN and East Asia”* by **Dr. Le Thai Ha** published



<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003026075>



Conferences and Seminars



Policy webinars on Covid-19 pandemic by FSPPM faculty is scheduled biweekly from April to June. The policy series is a knowledge initiative aiming to disseminating expert analysis on government policy responses to the general public. Four policy webinars were organized during the quarter:

- On 29 May, *Coping Covid-19: Support or Stimulus? Where does the money come from?* presented by **Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan**
- On 15 May, *Oil Price Crashes Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic* presented by **Dr. Le Thai Ha**
- On April 17, *Crisis management: A perspective in response to Covid-19* presented by **Prof. Pham Duy Nghia**
- On 3 April, *Government policy response to Corona virus Pandemic* presented by **Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh**

On May 30, 2020, **Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan** participated the Southern Key Economic Region Conference (SKER). The event was attended by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, and leaders of the eight provinces of the SKER. At the conference, Mr. Tuan presented the topic *Cooperation Frameworks for the Southern Key Economic Region* analyzing the institutional bottlenecks for regional integration, especially the investment budget for the region.

On May 20, **Dr. Vu Thanh Tu** participated in a panel discussion on Business Intelligence Briefing on Vietnam's Economic Recovery organized by AmCham Vietnam. According to Dr. Tu Anh, as Vietnam was able to control the Covid-19 from the early state, the country is having opportunities to attract new wave of FDI as many global companies are speeding up the process of diversifying investment locations to disperse risk and increase resilience to sudden fluctuations such as Covid-19.



Upcoming events

July

FSPPM will organized the Master in Public Policy program Information Day and Demo Classes in Ha Noi. The School will also take this opportunity to meet with its alumni in Ha Noi and surrounding areas. A seminar is being held as a connecting activity among its alumni network.

August

The Commencement Ceremony for MPP2020 is scheduled on 6 August. The School will award 52 Mater's degrees in Public Policy, out of which 19 graduates will receive the degree with a concentration in Leadership and Management, and 33 will receive the degree with a concentration in Policy Analysis concentration

September

The entrance examination and recruitment Interviews for the MPP2022 are scheduled to take place from 5-7 September in Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi.

