Vorada Limjaroenrat

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Education:

Ph.D. Economics, University of Gothenburg, Sweden   2020-2025 (expected)
   Supervisors: Prof. Randi Hjalmarsson and Prof. Andreea Mitrut
   Dissertation Title: Three Essays in Applied Microeconomics
   Visiting Research Student, London School of Economics, UK   2024 (Spring)

M.Sc. Specialized Economic Analysis, Barcelona School of Economics, Spain   2014
B.A. Economics (*First Class Honors*), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand   2013

Research Interests:

Primary: Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, Development Economics
Secondary: Labor Economics, Law and Economics

Work in Progress:

Courtroom Surveillance: Evidence from a State Intervention in the Courts [*Job Market Paper*]
Punished Beyond Her Crime: Evidence from Women in Drugs Offenses
Promotion and Performance in Public Organizations: Evidence from Police Department

Publications (Pre-Ph.D.):

"Trend Inflation Estimates for Thailand from Disaggregated Data" with Pym Manopimoke.
   Economic Modelling. Volume 65, Pages 75-94 (September 2017)

Teaching Experiences:

Lecturer, University of Gothenburg
   Economic Research Process (Master's)   2023
   Thesis Supervision (Master's)   2023-2024
Teaching Assistant, University of Gothenburg
   Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)   2023
   Econometrics (Master's)   2021-2022
   Advanced Microeconomics (Master's)   2021-2022
   Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)   2021-2022
Lecturer, Thammasat University
   International Finance (Master's)   2016

Work experience:

Senior researcher, Bank of Thailand   2014-
Research assistant to Prof. Jaime Luque Perez, ESCP Business School, Spain   2019
Research assistant to Prof. Weerachart Kilenthong, University of Chicago & UTCC   2012

Professional Activities:

Referee for Applied Economics Journal; Southeast Asian Journal of Economics.
Students' Union Representative, University of Gothenburg, 2020

Member of the Student's Rural Development Program, Chulalongkorn University, 2012

Additional Education:
Stockholm University:
    Courses: Data for Observational Study (2023), Development Economics (2021), Political Economics (2021, 2022)
University of Southampton & Economic and Social Research Council:
    Courses: Economics of Crime over Time and Space Summer School (2022)

Scholarships, Awards, and Grants:

Herbert & Karin Scholarships	2023
The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg Research Grants	2023
Adlerbert Travel Grants	2023,2024
Hedelius Scholarships	2022
Fully funded Ph.D. Position, University of Gothenburg	2020-2025
Merit-based Tuition Scholarships, Barcelona School of Economics	2013-2014
EBA Fellowship (merit–based full scholarships for four-year undergraduate studies)	2009-2013
Best National Undergraduate Economic Research Paper Award, Bank of Thailand	2013

Conference Presentations:

2024:   LSE; 8th InsTED Workshop on Advances in Institutions, trade, and economic development (King's College London); European Association of Labor Economists Conference (EALE, Bergen); UC3M (Madrid); ASWEDE (scheduled); Asian & Australian Society of Labor Economics Conference (AASLE, scheduled)

2023:   Crime & Victimization Workshop (Gothenburg University); 8th Annual Swedish Development Economist Conference (ASWEDE, Stockholm)

2018:   Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research: 6th Annual Conference. International Macroeconomics, Money and Banking (Singapore)

2017:   Bank of Thailand: Annual Research Workshop, Bank for International Settlements & the People's Bank of China: 10th Annual Workshop of the Asian Research Networks (Chengdu, China); CEPR Conference (Florence, Italy)

2016:   Bank of Thailand: Annual Research Workshop

Skills:
Programming: Python, MATLAB, R, STATA, Tableau, Latex.
Languages: Thai (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (intermediate), Spanish (basic)

References:

Prof. Randi Hjalmarsson	**Prof. Andreea Mitrut**
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Dissertation Abstract

I am an applied microeconomist specializing in political economy, development, and labor economics. My research seeks to understand the roots of public officials' biasedness and discrimination, analyze their socio-economic consequences, and identify organizational structure that could insulate these entities from political interventions.

In my dissertation, I study bias within the criminal justice system, particularly in the context of developing countries. The dissertation comprises three stand-alone papers, all based on newly collected administrative data from Thailand. The first two chapters use transcribed court case data to examine judicial decision-making. The first examines how political pressures shape court rulings, while the second analyzes gender disparities in judicial outcomes. The third chapter focuses on police officers, using novel administrative data to study how promotion incentives influence their performance.

Courtroom Surveillance: Evidence from a State Intervention in the Courts [*Job Market Paper*]

Governments have intervened in the courts in several countries, and especially in autocratic governments. The consequence of such reform is highly debated. For example, in Israel and South Africa, it has been questioned whether reforms that undermine judicial independence could destabilize the country's democratization. Despite the ongoing debate, the incentives and consequences of such government interventions are not well documented and studied.

In my JMP, I study the consequences of the 2017 judicial reform in Thailand during the autocratic regime that arguably lowered judicial independence by monitoring judges. The reform requires draft verdicts for certain cases to be reviewed by a superior court judge before judgment delivery. Further monitoring and enforcement of the reform were put in place in 2019.

To study the reform, I constructed a new dataset based on Thai courts spanning 2015-2020, which I transcribed from case-level complaint and judgment texts and linked with individual-level registry data. Using the difference in difference design that compares treated cases that contain offense types subject to superior court review to control cases that do not subject to additional review, I found that: (i) cases that are subjected to court revision received significantly longer prison sentences, (ii) the effect does not kick in until 2019 when extra monitoring and enforcement is introduced, and (iii) the effect is driven by previously lenient judges being more stringent after the reform. The results could not be explained by a change in case composition that is driven by criminals' behavior, prosecutors, or case assignment process in the court and were indeed a result of a change in judicial decision-making. In addition, I found that while drug-related and unrest offenses received harsher punishment, cases involving politicians and public officers' malfeasance however received significantly more favorable treatment.

Punished Beyond Her Crime: Evidence from Women in Drugs Offenses

Drugs have been a persistent problem in many countries, leading governments to often adopt a tough approach to combat drug trafficking. Evidence has shown that though women usually commit less serious crimes, women worldwide have been disproportionately incarcerated for drug offenses. In the US, over 35 percent of incarcerated women are imprisoned for drug-related offenses, compared to only 19 percent of men. This disparity is even more pronounced in Latin American and Asian countries.

In this paper, using the same court data as my JMP but now spanning 2005-2020, I document that the gender disparity in drug offenses differs from other types of crime. While women typically receive more favorable treatment in the criminal justice system, the gap is consistently negative for drug offenses—women receive harsher treatment than men in these cases. This difference cannot be explained by observable case or defendant characteristics, is highly robust to selection on unobservable, and is driven by nearly half of the judges in the sample. Heterogeneity analyses revealed that while the result is primarily driven by the majority of cases in which women were arrested alone, gender gap is significantly larger for those arrested alongside at least one male co-offender. The results shed light to the fact that tough-on-drugs policy may disproportionately affect women, particularly those at the lower end of the drug chain.

Promotion and Performance in Public Organizations: Evidence from Police Department (in progress)

Promotion incentives are commonly used in the public sector to encourage employees, including law enforcement officers, to perform at their highest potential. Given the critical role police departments play in maintaining public safety and reducing crime, alongside the significant social costs of promoting underperforming officers, it is crucial to design a system that effectively rewards top performers. Additionally, understanding the broader effects of such incentives, including their impact on performance and potential biases, is essential.

In the final chapter of my dissertation, I analyze newly collected data on arrest records which I linked to police personnel data from Thailand to investigate the factors influencing police promotions. I examine whether the current system truly rewards high-performing officers. By comparing officers who are subject to promotion incentives with those who are not, I also evaluate how these incentives affect police behavior, crime clearance rates, and the potential indirect costs, such as discrimination.