

THAO PHUONG NGUYEN (she/her)

PhD Student, Department of Sociology

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

M.A. in Social Sciences (Specialization: Sociology), GPA: 3.8/4.0, August 2019

Thesis: "Affordances and Risks of Digital Technology in the United States' Indie Porn Market"

Advisor: Kimberly Kay Hoang

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA

B.A. in Global Studies (Specialization: Gender Issues), Magna Cum Laude, May 2017

University of Reading, Reading, UK

Study Abroad Program, May 2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender & Sexualities, Work & Organizations, Communications & Technologies, Economic Sociology, Global/Transnational Sociology, Race & Class, Inequality & Mobility, Qualitative Methods, Feminist Theories/Methods, Queer Theories/Methods

MANUSCRIPT IN PROCESS

2019. "Affordances and Risks of Digital Technology in the U.S.'s Indie Porn Market".

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 "Rethinking Sex Trafficking in the Global Context: From Criminalization to Labor Rights and Economic Equity", Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-Fourth Session/Beijing+25: Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls, Panel "Sociological Research for a Beijing+25 Agenda" presented by Sociologists for Women in Society, New York, NY, March (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 "Social Media is Your CV: The Affordances and Risks of Technology in the Independent Sector of the Pornography Industry", Sociologists for Women in Society, Annual Summer Meeting, "Sex Education, Sex Work, and Sexual Health Practices" Roundtable, New York, NY, August.
- 2019 "Digital Technology in the U.S.'s Indie Porn Market," University of Chicago, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences' 4th Annual Graduate Student Academic Research Conference, Panel "Digitally Embodied", Chicago, IL, May.
- 2019 "Affordances and Risks of Digital Technology in the U.S.'s Indie Porn Market", Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May.
- 2015 "Improving Food Security in Lynchburg Using Community Centers", Symposium of Artists and Scholars, Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA, April [with Sally Taylor].
2015. "Inquiry-Science Institute for the K-8 Classroom", American Association of Physics Teachers, Annual Winter Meeting, San Diego, CA, January [with Hartzel Gillespie].
- 2014 "Science and Math Links: Research-Based Teaching Institute", Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship, Lynchburg, VA, October [with Shaun Chopp & Hartzel Gillespie].
- 2014 "Science and Math Links: Research-Based Teaching Institute", Randolph College, Summer Research Program Symposium, Lynchburg, VA, July [with Shaun Chopp & Hartzel Gillespie]. (*Winner of the 2015 Randolph College Outstanding Poster Presentation)

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Promundo-US, Washington, DC | Research Intern | Sept – Dec 2019

- Assisted senior staff in researching and preparing gender analysis reports on engaging men in gender-transformative and health-focused programming

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL | Graduate Student Researcher, Department of Sociology | Oct 2018 – Aug 2019

- Conducted qualitative study on digital technology in U.S.'s indie porn market in platform economy from sociology of gender and sociology of work lenses. Managed project including research design, proposal, literature review, data collection, analysis, budget, & writing
- Utilized 34 interviews and five months of ethnography in the digital and physical worlds. Conducted content analyses

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA | Student Researcher, Department of Political Science | Sept 2016 – May 2017

- Conducted research on prostitution in Vietnam from a socialist feminist perspective

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA | Research Assistant, Department of Political Science | Sept – December 2016

- Conducted research on structural changes and major developments at small liberal arts colleges that are cross application competitors of RC

Lynchburg City Manager's Office, Lynchburg, VA | Research Intern | Feb – May 2015

- Conducted a preliminary analysis of the availability of community resources to address food insecurity in Lynchburg
- Collaborated with local communities and stakeholders; Co-authored the final report

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA | Research Assistant, Summer Research Program | May – July 2014

- Assisted three STEM Education faculty with their ongoing research on the professional development of K-8 teachers
- Funded by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

GRANTS, HONORS & AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants

2019	Graduate Council Advanced Travel Grant, University of Chicago
2019	Center for the Study of Race, Politics, & Culture Research Grant, University of Chicago
2019	Center for the Study of Gender & Sexuality Travel Grant, University of Chicago
2015	Gravelly-Hampson Global Studies Fund, Randolph College
2015	Randolph's Innovative Student Experience Grant
2014	Summer Research Grant, Randolph College
2013 – 2017	International Students Grant, Randolph College

Honors and Awards

2017	Student Initiative Award, Randolph College
2017	Phi Beta Kappa
2017	Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science National Honor Society
2014 – 2017	Dean's List for Academic Excellence, Randolph College
2014 – 2017	Writing Excellence, Randolph College
2014 – 2017	Oral Presentation Excellence, Randolph College
2014 – 2017	Class Discussion Excellence, Randolph College

Scholarships

2018 – 2019	Dean's Scholarship, University of Chicago
2018 – 2019	Social Sciences Scholarship, University of Chicago
2013 – 2017	Merit Scholarship, Randolph College

WORK EXPERIENCE

BCS & Associates Consulting Firm, Lynchburg, VA & Greenville, SC | Associate Consultant | May 2017 – Present

- Conduct research on implicit bias, cultural competency, diversity, and equity in education, employment, criminal justice system, and community outreach and prepare proposals for service and presentations for workshops, seminars, and trainings
- Manage the CEO's schedule, facilitate meeting arrangements, and administer correspondence with business partners
- Create promotion materials, email marketing, update social media platforms, and manage website content to expand online presence
- Organize / maintain physical and electronic files, provide logistics support, and process reimbursements and payments
- Served as Program Assistant for "I KNOW I CAN" Institute (assets-based program on 2nd generation poverty)

Society of Gender Professionals, Frederick, MD | Start-up Team Member | Sept 2019 – May 2020

- Developed strategic plans to promote the growth of intersectional gender expertise for professional practice
- Executed programs to strengthen connections between gender theory, policy, and practice as well as support member collaboration, network-building, knowledge-sharing, mentoring and leadership

WordWorks!, Lynchburg, VA | Program Coordinator | March - May 2017

- Organized workshop series to provide creative writing and expository writing skills support for K-12 students
- Provided assistance to lesson planning, publishing student writings, capturing images and recording of workshop sessions

Freedom 4/24, Lynchburg, VA | Event Administration Intern | Jan – July 2017

- Managed and organized anti-human trafficking fundraising and awareness events for partner organizations that provide direct services to sexually abused and trafficked survivors; Trained and guided summer interns in event development, promotion, and facilitation
- Developed marketing and outreach plan for fundraising events. Secured donations from 20 local, national, and international businesses

Academy Center of the Arts, Lynchburg, VA | Community Outreach Intern | Jan – July 2017

- Assisted the Director of Community Outreach in diversifying the base of patrons, building relationships with marginalized groups in the community, and identifying local partner organizations to implement outreach programs

Southeast Asian Service Leadership Network, Siem Reap, Cambodia | Service & Publicity Officer | May – Aug 2016

- Trained 20 Cambodian and Vietnamese students (HS/college) on leadership, activism, community services, empowerment and personal development; Supervised the design of prevention tools for 78 local students in high poverty areas
- Maintained the project’s online presence and organized online campaigns to raise awareness about human trafficking
- Coordinated a movie talk fundraising event in Vietnam that featured representatives from UN Women, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment

VietAbroad Study-Abroad Conference, Northern Vietnam | Delegate Manager | May – August 2016

- Devised and led an outreach campaign including: recruited 311 participants from 15 high schools, oversaw 58 volunteers, and contacted representatives from 85 U.S colleges for three conferences in major cities in Northern Vietnam
- Led the Delegate Team and facilitated communication with 17 members in the Organizing Team
- Recruited 16 mentees in Northern Vietnam for the U.S. college application mentorship program

International Organization for Migration, Ankara, Turkey | Program Intern | June – Aug 2015

- Supported the Project Management and Development team in organizing World Day against Trafficking in Persons Conference for local deputy-governors and heads of provincial directorates in charge of migration management
- Summarized and analyzed Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) reports

Sexual Assault Response Program, YWCA, Lynchburg, VA | Sexual Assault Advocate | Jan – April 2015

- Provided crisis intervention to sexual assault victims/survivors including information and referrals on reporting and medical options, community resources, victims' rights, counseling, accompaniment to court-related meetings and hearings

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Panel Organizer/Moderator

- 2020 “Rethinking Gender Binarism: In Our Everyday Lives and In Our Gender Work”, Society of Gender Professionals, Gender Café, Webinar, June.
- 2019 “Beyond the Binaries in International Development,” Society of Gender Professionals, Gender Café, Webinar, November.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – 2017 Community Fellow, Life More Abundant Program, Randolph College
- 2016 – 2017 Co-President & Campus Advocate, Violence Prevention and Victim Advocacy, Randolph College
- 2014 – 2015 Vice Co-Chair, Science Festival, Randolph College
- 2014 – 2015 Class President, Student Government, Randolph College

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Sociological Association, 2019 -
- Sociologists for Women in Society, 2019 -
- Society of Gender Professionals, 2018 -

LANGUAGES

Vietnamese (native), Chinese (elementary)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data Analysis** MAXQDA, Qualtrics, SPSS (elementary), Python (elementary), R (elementary)
- Others** MS Suite, Mailchimp, QuickBooks, Google Suite, Zoom, Canva, Slack