

A JOINT SEMINAR WITH DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGY AND POLICY

Chains of Love? Global Production and the Firm-Level Diffusion of Labor Standards

Speaker: Prof Edmund Malesky
Visiting Professor
Department of Strategy & Policy, NUS Business School

Date/Time: Wednesday, 25 October 2017, 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Place: Mochtar Riady Building, BIZ 1 CARE-3, #3-5 (Level 3)

Abstract

Under what conditions does the global economy serve as a means for the diffusion of labor standards and practices? We anticipate variation among internationally engaged firms in their propensity to improve labor standards. Upgrading is most likely when a firm's products exhibit significant cross-market differences in markups, making accessing high-standards overseas markets particularly profitable. Additionally, upgrading is more likely when lead firms attach a high salience to labor standards. Therefore, while participation in global production induces "trading up" behaviors among firms overall, the effect strength varies across industries. We test our expectations via a survey experiment, which queries foreign firms operating in Vietnam about their willingness to invest in labor-related upgrading. We find strong evidence for the effect of markups on upgrading choices and suggestive evidence for the saliency mechanism.

About the Speaker

Eddy Malesky is a Professor of Political Economy and the Associate Chair of the Political Science Department at Duke University and a Visiting Professor at NUS Business School. He is a noted specialist in economic development, authoritarian institutions, and comparative political economy in Vietnam. In 2012, Malesky received a state medal from the Government of Vietnam for his role in promoting economic development for USAID's Vietnam Provincial Competitiveness Index and, in 2013, he was appointed by President Obama to serve on the board of the Vietnam Education Foundation. He has published extensively in the leading political science and economic journals and has received various awards including the Harvard Academy Fellowship and the Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Fellowship.

For more on Eddy Malesky's Profile, click [HERE](#).

Lunch will be served at 12.00 noon at Staff Lounge.

ADMISSION IS FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME

This seminar is co-organised with the Department of Strategy and Policy, NUS Business School

