



**Meng LIU**

**School of Economics, Singapore Management University**

<https://liumengecon.com/>

[meng.liu.2018@phdecons.smu.edu.sg](mailto:meng.liu.2018@phdecons.smu.edu.sg)

**Contact Information**

School of Economics  
Singapore Management University  
90 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178903, Republic of Singapore  
Handphone/Cell: +65 98857987

**Personal Information:**

Citizenship: Chinese

**Undergraduate Studies:**

B.A., Economics, Research Institute of Economics and Management, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, 2011 - 2015.

**Masters Level Work:**

MSc., Applied Economics, School of Social Science, Nanyang Technological University, 2016 – 2017

**Graduate Studies:**

Singapore Management University, 2018 - present  
Thesis Title: Essays on Culture, Institutions, and Development  
Expected Completion Date: June 2023

**Thesis Committee and References:**

**Tomoki Fujii (Chair)**

School of Economics  
Singapore Management University  
90 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178903  
<+65 68280279> <[tfujii@smu.edu.sg](mailto:tfujii@smu.edu.sg)>

**Fali Huang**

School of Economics  
Singapore Management University  
90 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178903  
<+65 68280859> <[flhuang@smu.edu.sg](mailto:flhuang@smu.edu.sg)>

**Madhav Shrihari Aney**

School of Economics  
Singapore Management University  
90 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178903  
<+65 68280644> <[madhavsa@smu.edu.sg](mailto:madhavsa@smu.edu.sg)>

**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Primary fields: Development Economics

Secondary fields: Economics of Culture, Economic History

**Teaching Experience:**

*Teaching Assistant*

2022-2023 Further Math for Economics, Singapore Management University

2022-2023 Introductory Statistics, Singapore Management University

2020-2021 Labour Economics, Singapore Management University

2019-2020 Macroeconomic Analysis, Singapore Management University

**Research Experience:**

2017-2018 Research Associate (full time), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**Conference and Seminar Presentations:**

2022 Singapore Economic Review Conference

2019-2021 SMU Development Study Group

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2018-2022 Graduate Full Scholarship, MOE, Singapore

2013-2014 Academic Scholarship, SWUFE, China

**Research Papers:**

**“Confucian Literati and Long-run Development in Northern Vietnam”** *with Tomoki Fujii*  
([Job Market Paper](#))

**Abstract:** Following Max Weber’s thesis, studies have suggested that Confucianism could impede economic growth despite its positive effects. In this paper, we revisit the impact of Confucianism on long-run development in a less explored context – northern Vietnam. Using the variation in Confucian literati across 217 historical districts between the Primitive Le and Nguyen dynasties (1426-1919), we find that districts with a greater exposure to Confucianism have experienced better economic outcomes over the past century. The result is robust to controlling for a battery of confounders and using the distance to exogenously located hermit scholars as an instrument. We show that the impact of Confucianism can be attributed to the persistence of a culture of respect for education and norms of collective action, which facilitated human and social capital accumulation, public goods provision, and economic transition.

**“Sadder but Wiser: Effects of Natural Disasters on Long-term Orientation”** *with James B. Ang, Per G. Fredriksson, and Jun Wang*

**Abstract:** This study attempts to uncover the origin of long-term orientation (LTO) by exploiting the variation in the historical exposure to natural disasters. We combine data on significant natural disasters occurring during 1500-1980 with LTO data derived from multiple World Values Survey and European Values Survey waves covering years 1981-2020, yielding a sample of around 361,000 respondents. We test two opposing hypotheses borrowed from psychology. We find robust evidence at the individual-, subnational-, and country-level in favor of the view that a larger exposure to catastrophic events increases the degree of LTO. This finding holds up to using

alternative samples and measures, including geo-climatic confounders, and controlling for the influence of institutions and other cultural traits. The psychological process of future-oriented coping is a mechanism that helps explain our results. To cope with adverse events, individuals undertake cognitive and behavioral actions that prioritize the long term, thus shedding light on how LTO is linked to disaster exposure.

**Work in Progress:**

**“Clan Network and Market Integration in Qing China”**

**Computer Skills:**

Stata, R, QGIS, ArcGIS, LaTeX

**Languages:**

Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)