Research Assistant Position for Sarah Bui

Project Description:
This project evaluates the impacts of Vietnam's national Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program, which compensates landowners for forest conservation and reforestation. The research examines the effects of the policy on households, firms, and forest outcomes across Vietnam. Key questions include:

- How has PES affected land-use decisions and forest conservation?
- How do impacts differ across households, firms, and regions?
- Does PES lead to leakage effects in unprotected areas?
- What factors drive farmers' decisions to convert agricultural land into plantation forests?

Position Description:
The position will primarily involve working with large-scale agricultural and forestry census data, as well as remote sensing datasets.

- Proficiency in R or Python is required.
- Experience with Google Earth Engine (GEE), ArcGIS, or other GIS software is preferred, though a strong willingness to learn is also welcomed.
- Interest in environmental economics, development economics, natural resource management, or related fields.

The position is flexible and may range from 0 to 20 hours per week, depending on the applicant's availability and project needs.

Application Requirements:
Interested applicants should email sarahbui@u.northwestern.edu a copy of their transcript, resume and a paragraph describing their interest in this project and position. The position is expected to begin at the start of the Fall Quarter and continue through at least the end of the quarter. There is potential for longer-term collaboration and extension based on mutual interest and project needs.