

# MELATI NUNGSARI

## ADDRESS

Asia School of Business in Collaboration with MIT Sloan  
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## WEBSITE

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## PERSONAL CELL NUMBER

+6013-290-3225 (Malaysia)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics (05/17 - Present)  
*Asia School of Business in Collaboration with MIT Sloan Management  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Research Affiliate (08/17 - Present)  
*Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA*

International Faculty Fellow (05/17 - 08/17)  
*Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA*

Assistant Professor of Economics (08/16 - 05/17)  
*Lacy School of Business at Butler University  
Indianapolis, IN*

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (08/15 - 08/16)  
*Department of Economics at Davidson College  
Davidson, NC*

## EDUCATION

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (08/10 - 05/15)*  
Ph.D. in Economics  
Dissertation Title: Essays on Pricing and Matching on Two-Sided Platforms  
Dissertation Committee: Gary Biglaiser (Main Advisor), Peter Norman, Helen Tauchen, Andy Yates, Fei Li

*Knox College, Galesburg IL (08/06 - 06/10)*  
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Economics (Magna Cum Laude)  
Honors in Mathematics: Measure Theoretic Probability and its Applications to Finance

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Industrial Organization, Market Design, Labor Economics, Public Policy

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

- **Nungsari, M.**, Dedrick, M., and Patel, S. (2017). Team Teaching an Interdisciplinary First-Year Seminar on Magic, Religion, and the Origins of Science: A ‘Pieces-to-Picture’ Approach’. *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, Vol. 17, No. 1, February 2017, 24-36.
- **Nungsari, M.**, Flanders, S., and Chuah, H.Y. (forthcoming, 2019). Issues Facing Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Southeast Asia: Narrowing the Gaps Between Theory, Policy, and Reality

### Book Chapters

- Egaña del Sol, P., and **Nungsari, M.** (2019) The Sharing Economy and the Future of Energy. *Encyclopedia of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Affordable and Clean Energy*, Springer - Nature, forthcoming. ISSN: 2523-3084.

### Textbook

- Abd. Rahman, F., Abd. Rahim N.A., **Nungsari M.**, Flanders, S., and Alshershaby, D. (2018). *Modul Bertutur Bahasa Melayu: Aras Permulaan (A Basic Conversational Malay Language Curriculum for Non-Native Adult Speakers)*. National Library of Malaysia, ISBN: 978-967-16604-0-9.
  - This textbook was prepared as a collaboration between UNHCR Malaysia, Asia School of Business, and Universiti Putra Malaysia. It was designed to teach adult refugees basic conversational Malay language. The practical curriculum was built around refugee life in Malaysia and contained topics relevant to their daily interactions. It is used for UNHCR-affiliated Malay language training programs in Malaysia and is free for anybody else to use as well, subject to copyright conditions.

### Policy Papers

- Flanders, S., and **Nungsari M.** (2018). In Collaboration with the United Nations Refugee Agency in Malaysia. *A Comprehensive Study of Rohingya Construction Workers in Peninsular Malaysia and Recommendations for a Future Work Pilot Program*.
  - This report was prepared in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency in Malaysia. It was formally presented to the Ministry of Human Resources in Parliament, and has been widely used to advocate for legal work rights for refugees in Malaysia both in the Cabinet of Malaysia, as well as by field practitioners. The report summarizes findings from a representative mixed methods research study on 397 Rohingya refugee construction workers in 4 states in Peninsular Malaysia, the first and only one of its kind at time of publication.

## Public Scholarship and Media

- Radio Interview: "Cultivating Evidence-Based Refugee Advocacy." *On BFM 'The Business Station' Malaysia 89.9*. 21 August 2019. <https://bit.ly/21UMcLM>
- Featured Article on Research Project: "Don't like Refugees? Try Meeting One." *Free Malaysia Today*. 23 July 2019. <https://bit.ly/2jXUNwC>
- Nungsari, M., and Chuah, H.Y. "Clearing the Air on Refugees." *The Star Newspaper*. 10 July 2019. <https://bit.ly/2k7rx6U>
- Nungsari, M. "Platforms and Power." *The Edge Weekly*. 12 April 2018. <https://goo.gl/LAQM7w>
- Nungsari, M. "Ideas to Curb Our Brain Drain." *The Edge Weekly*. 8 January 2018. <https://goo.gl/ZPpX3J>.
- Nungsari, M. "We Solved Our 2-Body Problem - by Moving to Malaysia." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 18 June 2017. <https://goo.gl/L95o6a>.

## OTHER RESEARCH

### Revise and Resubmit

- "Pricing and Incentives in Defined Contribution Systems" with Marcela Parada-Contzen and Sam Flanders. *At the Journal of Public Economic Theory*.

### Under Review

- "We Are What We Aid: A Textual Analysis on The Effect of Short Term Volunteering on Attitudes Towards Refugees" with Sam Flanders *At the International Migration Review*.

### Working Papers

- "Using Classroom Experiments To Teach Market Design and Matching Theory" with Sam Flanders. *Preparing for the International Review of Economic Education*.
- "Quality Versus Fit: Market Design and Externalities on Multidimensional Matching Platforms" with Sam Flanders *Preparing for the Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- "Searching for Yourself: A Model of Pricing on a Two-Sided Matching Platform with Horizontally-Differentiated Agents"
- "Problem Formulation and Cognitive Learning in Culturally Diverse Teams" with Ambra Mazzelli

### Work in Progress

- "Congestion, Gas Taxes and Vehicle Choice" with Sam Flanders
- "Measuring the Impact of Entrepreneurial Training on Community College Students by Using a Randomized Controlled Trial: the Rapid Youth Success Entrepreneurship (RYSE) Program" with Sam Flanders and Pablo Egaña del Sol
- "Using Classroom Games in MBA Economics Courses"
- "The Impact of News and Natural Disasters on Retirement Savings in Malaysia: An Event Study" with Sam Flanders and Norma Mansor
- "Measuring the Impact of Malay Language Interventions on the Economic Outcomes of Rohingya Refugees" with Sam Flanders, Fadzilah Abd Rahman, and Nur Aira Abd Rahim

- “Refugee Labor Market Integration: the Case of the Rohingya in Malaysia” with Sam Flanders

## RESEARCH GRANTS

- Citi Foundation Capacity-Building Grant for the RYSE Program – USD \$80,000 (January 2019 - December 2020)
  - Funding for a randomized controlled trial to design, execute, and assess the impact of entrepreneurship and design-thinking skills on the socio-emotional and economic outcomes of low-income students at community colleges in Klang Valley, Malaysia.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - USD \$5,000 (January 2018 - July 2018)
  - Funding for a randomized controlled trial to measure the impact of Bahasa Malaysia language interventions on the economic and social outcomes of Rohingya refugees in Malaysia.

## TEACHING

### Teaching Experience

- *Asia School of Business (May 2017 - Present)*

#### INSTRUCTOR:

- ECON101D: Advanced Economics II for MBAs (Winter 2018)  
This class was almost entirely taught using games and classroom experiments. I covered an extended treatment of game theory and strategy, auction theory, platforms, and two-sided matching with applications to real-world business problems. This course was subsequently categorized as an elective and renamed “ECON101F: Platforms, Auctions, and Competition Through Games”.
- ECON101A: Applied Economics for Managers (Fall 2018)
- ECON101F: Platforms, Auctions, and Competition Through Games (Fall 2018)
- ECON101A: Applied Economics for Managers (Online) (Summer 2018) (upcoming)
- ECON101F: Platforms, Auctions, and Competition Through Games (Fall 2019) (upcoming)

#### FACULTY ADVISOR:

- AL 101C: Summer Action Learning (Summer 2017)
- AL 101A: Action Learning Trek in Southeast Asia I (Fall 2017)
- AL 101D: Action Learning Trek in Southeast Asia IV (Fall 2017)
- AL 101B: Action Learning Trek in Southeast Asia II (Winter 2018)
- AL 101E: Action Learning V - Social Enterprises in Malaysia (Winter 2018)
- AL 101C: Summer Action Learning (Summer 2018)
- AL 101A: Action Learning Trek in Southeast Asia I (Fall 2018)
- AL 101E: Action Learning V - Product Design (Spring 2018)

- *Butler University (August 2016 - May 2017)*

#### INSTRUCTOR:

- EC 231: Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2016)
- EC 354: Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2016)
- EC 231: Principles of Microeconomics (Spring 2017)
- EC 495: Industrial Organization (Spring 2017)

- *Davidson College (August 2015 - July 2016)*

INSTRUCTOR:

- ECO 101B: Introductory Economics (Fall 2015)
- ECO 101C: Introductory Economics (Fall 2015)
- ECO 225: Public Sector Economics (Fall 2015)
- ECO 101C: Introductory Economics (Spring 2016)
- ECO 282: Economics of Matching (Spring 2016)

I designed and taught this new introductory market design class that studied the design and use of market-based mechanisms to solve problems of economic resource allocation. We studied the basics of matching theory, how markets fail, and how a policy-maker can redesign these “broken” markets. After obtaining a good understanding of the foundations to matching theory, we looked at applications to real-life markets: the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP), kidney transplant markets, student-school choice, job search, and marriage and dating. We answered some of the following questions: How is the dating market different than the market for coffee? How can matching theory help explain the increasing level of inequality in the US? How do firms behave when setting prices in matching markets? How do markets typically fail and how can a policy-maker address these failures to increase economic efficiency?

- *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (August 2011-May 2014)*

- I completed the UNC Economics Teacher Training Program (TTP) in Spring 2012.

INSTRUCTOR:

- ECON 101: Principles of Economics (Summer Session I, 2012)
- IDST 89: Magic, Religion, and Science (Fall 2013)

I designed this interdisciplinary first-year undergraduate seminar as part of a interdisciplinary collaboration project with two colleagues from Archaeology and Religious Studies. This is a discussion-based class, where we explore how society and scholars have constructed definitions of magic, religion, and science. We study how these definitions have overlapped in various societies and how they have been mutually exclusive in others. My contribution to the class was to provide an economic approach to understand how people make decisions and to provide methods for analyzing political and economic backgrounds of various societies.

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

- ECON 101: Principles of Economics (Fall 2011)
- ECON 420: Intermediate Theory: Money, Income, and Employment (Spring 2012)
- ECON 890 (Graduate): Advanced Quantitative Methods for Economists (Fall 2012)
- ECON 711 (Graduate): Microeconomic Theory II (Game Theory) (Spring 2013)
- ECON 511: Game Theory for Economics (Spring 2014)
- ECON 511 (Honors): Game Theory for Economics (Spring 2014)

**TEACHING AWARDS**

- *Honored Guest, Butler University Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day - 2016/17*
- *Best Graduate Teaching Assistant (UNC Economics Department) - 2012/13*

## CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- Through student and research projects, I have either consulted or advised on projects with Bosch, EmKay Group, mudah.my, Alliance of Financial Inclusion, Asian Development Bank, General Electric, Motorola, the United Nations, and Creador.
- MIT-UTM Sustainable Cities Program – Faculty Advisor (Fall 2017 - Spring 2018)
  - The MIT-UTM Malaysia Sustainable Cities Program (MSCP) was a five-year effort (2013-2018) initiated and run by faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Universiti of Teknologi of Malaysia (UTM), with generous support by the Ministry of Education of Malaysia. The MSCP mission was to study and document sustainable city development efforts in Malaysia.

## OTHER HONORS AND AWARDS

- *Finalist, The World Bank Group's Sundaran Memorial Prize for Young Malaysian Researchers, 2019*
  - My paper with two co-authors titled “Pricing and Incentives In Defined Contribution Retirement Systems” was one of the top 3 papers submitted for this prize, which was “granted to a Malaysian national for a paper that demonstrates excellence in research while addressing clear and compelling ways of presenting a key development policy issue in Malaysia and other developing countries.”
- *24th Eurasian Business and Economics Society (EBES) Conference Best Paper Award, 2018*
  - My paper with two co-authors titled “Pricing and Incentives In Defined Contribution Retirement Systems” was one of the top 3 papers (out of 178 papers in total) at the January 2018 conference in Bangkok. Acceptance of the award was contingent on publishing the paper in one of the EBES journals, which we declined.
- *Royster Society of Fellows – Chancellor's Fellowship (2010-2015)*  
UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School's premiere interdisciplinary fellowship program for recruiting exceptional graduate students.
- *Phi Beta Kappa (2010)*
- *Vinton C. Johnson Prize (2010)*  
Awarded annually to the outstanding senior economics major at Knox College
- *Victoria Legner Junod Prize in Mathematics (2010)*  
Awarded annually to the outstanding senior math major at Knox College

## RESEARCH CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- 2019 Salzburg Conference in Interdisciplinary Poverty Research (Migration and Poverty), University of Salzburg, Austria, September 19-20, 2019.
- 2019 United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Conference – “Transforming Economies for Better Jobs”, Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 September.
- MERCY Malaysia International Humanitarian Conference 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5-7 August.
- 2019 World Bank Group Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 2.
- 15th International Conference of the Western Economic Association International, Tokyo, Japan, March 21-24, 2019.
- Médecins Sans Frontières and Mercy Malaysia's Annual Symposium on Access to Healthcare for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers, December 3, 2018.
- The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) and the Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (LAMES), Guayaquil, Ecuador, November 8-10, 2018.
- 2018 World Bank Group Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 9.

- 2018 Asia School of Business - UN High Commissioner for Refugees Research Workshop on Refugee Studies and Forced Migration, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 18. (Primary Organizer)
- 2018 National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (Hosted by the American Economic Association), San Antonio, TX, May 30 - June 1.
- 2018 Annual European Search and Matching Conference, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, May 23-25.
- 2018 World Bank Group Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 15.
- Yale-NUS Department of Economics Research Seminar, Singapore, March 26, 2018.
- 24th Eurasia Business and Economics Society Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, January 10-12, 2018.
- 2018 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-7, 2018.
- The 42nd Conference of Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 5-8, 2017.
- 2017 Research Workshop on the Health of Migrants and Refugees, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 9-10.
- 2017 World Bank Group Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 24.
- 2017 Asia School of Business Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 10.
- 2017 Conference of the Society of Economic Measurement, MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA, July 26-28.
- 2017 Leaders of Experiential and Project-Based Education Conference, Darden School of Business at The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, June 20 - June 22.
- 2017 National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (Hosted by the American Economic Association), Denver, CO, May 31 - June 2.
- 2017 Midwest Economic Association Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, March 31 - April 2.
- Fall Research Seminar, Lacy School of Business, Butler University, IN, October 2016.
- 2016 Midwest Economic Theory Conference, Krannert School of Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, December 2-4.
- 2016 National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (Hosted by the American Economic Association), Atlanta, GA, June 1-3.
- 85th Annual Conference of the Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA, November 21-23, 2015.
- UNC-Chapel Hill Research Seminar, Fall 2015.
- 2015 Singapore Economic Review Conference, Singapore, August 5-7.
- 2015 National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (Hosted by the American Economic Association), Minneapolis, MN, May 27-29.
- 14th Annual Economics Teaching Workshop, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, NC, October 4th, 2014.
- 12th Annual Columbia/Duke/MIT/Northwestern Industrial Organization Theory Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, November 23-24, 2013.
- Networks and Development: Exploring an Emerging Theme (National Science Foundation), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, March 24-25, 2012.
- Undergraduate Research Symposium (Midwestern States Consortium for Mathematics and Science), The University of Chicago, Chicago IL, November 6-8, 2009. [Presented mathematics research project funded by the Ford Foundation and a Richter Foundation grant titled *Polynomial Invariants for Knots and Amphicheirality*]

## INVITED TALKS - PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia, February 10, 2019.
  - My talk was titled “Mens et Manus in Malaysia: Creating Socially Impactful Research Programs”. I spoke to over 100 faculty members at a public university in East Malaysia about how I have started a range of new research programs from my work in the field with practitioners and NGOs who deal with real problems facing marginalized communities in Malaysia.
- The British International School in Kuala Lumpur’s Annual Model United Nations Conference, December 2, 2018.
  - This talk was part of my youth outreach initiative. I was the keynote speaker at the Model UN conference at a prestigious international school in Kuala Lumpur, and spoke to high-school students about my research and work with the Rohingya refugee community in Peninsular Malaysia.
- United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative (Youth Co:Lab), Cyberjaya, Malaysia, September 13-15, 2018.
  - I was a mentor/technical expert for the program, which aimed to incite, catalyze, and sustain youth innovation that are aimed at creating positive impact on some of the nation’s most pressing issues. I mentored teams who pitched social enterprise startup ideas aimed at income generation for undocumented persons.
- Kolej Yayasan United Engineers Malaysia Kaigi Conference, Kolej Yayasan UEM, Lembah Beringin, Selangor, Malaysia, August 25, 2018.
  - The KYUEM Kaigi is a prestigious college event in which issues regarding Malaysia are discussed in an international context. This conference aims to develop the talents of bright young Malaysian minds as future professionals, as well as hone their skills as critical thinkers and eloquent speakers. I spoke at the 4-person panel symposium as an economist.
- K-Novasi Pengajaran and Pembelajaran (Pendidikan 4.0: Graduan Kalis Masa Depan), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia, January 17-18, 2018.
  - This is an annual conference on pedagogical innovations in higher education hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, one of the five research universities in Malaysia. This year’s theme was improving graduate employability. I spoke about the labor market challenges facing graduates from Malaysian universities, the importance of failure, and the importance of diversity in one’s educational experience.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Participant, University of Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analytics (Applied Research Methods with Hidden, Marginal, and Excluded Populations), 29 July - 2 August 2019.
- Selected Participant, Western Economic Association International’s Early Career Researcher Workshop (Mentoring Program), Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, 21-24 March, 2019.
- Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand, September 17-21, 2018.
  - I was invited to join the Department of Economics at Thammasat University for a week as a Visiting Scholar/Professor. I taught two graduate seminar workshops (one on Market Design/IO and one on Impact Evaluations), gave a research seminar presentation to the faculty, and taught an undergraduate seminar class on Market Design and Pricing in an Industrial Economics class.
- Participant, Harvard Business School’s Case Method Teaching Seminar, Boston, MA, August 18-19, 2017.
- Fellow, 2015 Duke University Summer Institute on the History of Economic Thought (Hosted by the Center for the History of Political Economy), Durham, NC, June 1-13.



## **LEADERSHIP**

- President, UNC Economics Graduate Student Association (2012-2013)
- President, UNC Omicron Delta Epsilon (The International Economics Honor Society) (2012-2013)

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

Mathematica, Matlab, Stata, R

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Companion, *Orange Country Rape Crisis Center* (February 2014 - May 2015)  
I volunteered my time at the center by staffing the 24-Hour Crisis Line. I supported survivors of sexual assault by providing information on the medical, legal, and mental health resources available in the community. I sometimes accompanied survivors to receive medical treatment, file a police report, or meet with legal services.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native), Malay (native)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Economic Association, Western Economic Association, The Econometric Society, Academy of Management

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.

Last updated: September 6th, 2019.