

## Research Note

# Vietnamese Research Practice: Some Reflections on a Sometimes Key Component of Change\*

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### Summary

The paper broaches the general research issue of whether there are distinct characteristics to common Vietnamese methods of knowledge production, drawing upon the author's own experiences. It examines various policy documents, and frames its analysis of the implied methods used to produce them through reference to existing research. It is suggested that Vietnamese are 'catholic' in their gauging of proposed knowledges, but are so at the level of the individual rather than that of the communities of belief found among societies whose histories refer to the Abrahamic traditions. The paper argues that knowledge validation in Vietnam can often be viewed as similar to the following of inductive procedures, with a stress on the requirement that they be related to 'perceived reality'. However 'nous' is felt to be less of a psychological individual experience and more of a social acceptance one, being marked by terms such as *so ket* and *tong ket* (Vietnamese diacritics are omitted). The paper concludes with reference to certain policy documents of major historical importance.

**Keywords:** Vietnam, Vietnamese language, Vietnamese research methodology, policy documents

**Adam Fforde** is a widely-cited scholar of contemporary Vietnam, though he also publishes on wider issues of development methodology and economics. His main focus currently, in his work on Vietnam, is the history of the Vietnamese 'economic miracle' that started around 1992.

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\* This paper was originally for the conference "Thirty Years of Đổi Mới-Policy in Vietnam – Expectations, Challenges and Achievements" held at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn Friday, 18th until Sunday, 20th March 2016. It addressed specific questions from the organisers (Eva Fuhrmann, Kerstin Schiele and TRAN Tu Van Anh) to whom many thanks are due. These questions were: What are the scientific concepts employed by research about Vietnam today, and are there any specifically Vietnamese approaches? Are there alternatives to "western" concepts and approaches? Where is the emphasis of research regarding Vietnam by international and Vietnamese research?"