

September 1, 2006

Dear Search Committee Members,

I am writing to apply for the position you advertised in the August 2006 *Employment Bulletin*. I am currently in my fifth year in the Ph.D. program at Princeton University's Sociology Department, and expect to defend my dissertation by May 2007. My primary areas of interest are migration, economic sociology and statistical methodology. My dissertation, chaired by Paul DiMaggio, studies the network sources of internal migration, remittance and development patterns in Thailand. Please find enclosed my curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, copies of two papers from my dissertation and a third co-authored paper. The first paper, "Social Capital and Migration: How Do Similar Resources Lead to Divergent Outcomes?" received the 2006 student paper award from the ASA Population Section, and currently has a revise and resubmit from *Demography*. The second paper is under review at *Social Forces*, where the third paper has appeared in September 2005.

My empirical research spans the substantive fields of migration, inequality, diffusion, social networks, economic sociology, and development. My methodological approach is to develop and employ custom analysis techniques that can most effectively answer the substantive question at-hand. I primarily apply quantitative methods and analyze large survey data, yet I supplement the empirical results with insights from qualitative field observation. Besides flexibility with respect to different styles of analysis, my research is characterized by openness to multiple disciplinary viewpoints. Coming from an engineering background, and being part Princeton's inter-disciplinary Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows in the past two years, I often combine different approaches, ideas or methods that are typically separated by disciplinary boundaries.

I am currently working on three major projects. In all three projects, I am interested in situations in which individuals' choices are affected by the choices of others around them, and consequently aggregate patterns cannot simply be extrapolated from isolated individual characteristics. My dissertation research deals with a puzzle in the Thai internal migration context: While migration to urban areas reaches mass levels in some sending communities, it lingers at low levels in other communities that are at first glance very similar. I argue that this macro-level puzzle can be explained by individual level interactions within social networks that connect migrants to other community members. My other two projects ask similar questions, and similarly attempt to understand puzzling aggregate patterns by identifying underlying individual level mechanisms. The second project, in collaboration with Sara Curran, attempts to explain gender differences in

migration patterns in Thailand by infusing insights from gender studies with the cumulative causation theory of migration. The third project, with Paul DiMaggio, questions the variation in internet adoption rates of different socio-economic groups in the U.S., and combines economic theory on network externalities with diffusion models to provide an explanation.

In addition to extensive research opportunities, my education at Princeton has provided me with valuable teaching experience. I have had several appointments as a teaching assistant in Operations Research and Financial Engineering (*Optimization, Times Series Analysis*) and Sociology (*Social Psychology, Statistics*). I have also been a guest lecturer for Viviana Zelizer's *Economic Sociology* course. In my final year, the restrictions of the two prestigious fellowships I hold (Harold W. Dodds Honorific and Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows) prevented me from accepting the Sociology Department's offer to be a lecturer of a graduate-level Statistics course. I have completed the Teaching Transcript Program offered by Princeton's McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, and I am committed to continue developing my skills in this area to become an excellent teacher. I feel well-prepared to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in my areas of interest, including migration, economic sociology, inequality and stratification, development, statistics, and computational modeling. I am also interested in teaching gender, family, globalization, and culture at the undergraduate level.

Let me say that I am enthusiastic to apply for an appointment at XXX. I hope you will find my research and teaching interests compatible with the needs of your department. Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me if you require any further information. I can be reached via e-mail (fgarip@princeton.edu) or phone (609-731-0716). In addition, abstracts of all my papers are available online on my Princeton University website at <http://www.princeton.edu/~fgarip>. Copies of these papers are available upon request.

Sincerely,

Filiz Garip