

博士論文審査結果報告
Report on Ph.D. / Doctoral Dissertation Defense
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
 Associate Professor YAMAUCHI Chikako

審査委員会を代表し、以下のとおり審査結果を報告します。

On behalf of the Doctoral Thesis Review Committee, I would like to report the result of the Doctoral Dissertation Defense as follows.

学位申請者氏名 Ph.D. Candidate	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta		
学籍番号 ID Number	PHD14102		
プログラム名 Program	Policy Analysis Program		
審査委員会 Doctoral Thesis Review Committee	主査 Main referee	山内 慎子 YAMAUCHI Chikako	副指導教員 Sub Advisor
	審査委員 Referee	CHEN Stacey H. (東京大学公共政策大学院 教授、元 GRIPS 教員)	主指導教員 Main Advisor
	審査委員 Referee	WIE Dainn	副指導教員 Sub Advisor
	審査委員 Referee	飯塚 倫子 IIZUKA Michiko	博士課程委員会委員長代理 Acting Chairperson of the Doctoral Programs Committee
	審査委員 Referee	高崎 善人 / TAKASAKI Yoshito (東京大学大学院経 済学研究科教授)	外部審査委員 EXternal Referee
論文タイトル Dissertation Title (タイトル和訳)※ Title in Japanese	Legal Bans and Traditional Practices in Africa: the Effect of Criminalizing Female Genital Cutting on the Practice and Wellbeing アフリカにおける法的規制と伝統的慣習：女性性器切除禁止法がその頻度 と女性の厚生に与える影響について		
学位名 Degree Title	博士（開発経済学） Ph.D. in Development Economics		
論文提出日 Submission Date of the Draft Dissertation	2021 年 6 月 29 日	論文審査会開催日 Date of the Doctoral Thesis Review Committee	2021 年 7 月 27 日
論文発表会開催日 Date of the Defense	2021 年 7 月 27 日	論文最終版提出日 Submission Date of the Final Dissertation	2021 年 10 月 6 日
審査結果 Result	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> 合格 Pass 不合格 Failure </div>		

※ タイトルが英文の場合、文部科学省に報告するため、和訳を付してください

Please add a Japanese title that will be reported to MEXT.

1. 論文要旨 Thesis overview and summary of the presentation.

A female genital cutting (FGC) has long been a cultural prerequisite for women to marry in many African regions and ethnicities. This practice of removing part of the female external reproductive organ for non-medical reasons has raised concerns about public health and human rights. At least fifteen African countries have criminalized the practice, and more have implemented noncriminal interventions (e.g., reproductive health laws). Despite decades of the apparent conflict between the culture and the policy interventions, few systematic studies evaluate the *effectiveness* of eradication policies or the policy's impact on female *wellbeing* (measured by health, education, and marriage quality in this study). This dissertation aims to fill this research gap using Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) of all African countries ban FGC.

The candidate identifies 14 countries with individual FGC data recorded in DHS/MICS that have rolled out a criminal law between 1994 and 2011. (He also studied another six countries with available data that have enforced a noncriminal FGC eradication law between 1999 and 2010, although these countries are not his focus). The variation in the exposure to the criminal laws across birth cohorts and countries provides an exogenous source of variation in FGC status required for identification.

Peculiar challenges for this empirical study started to appear when the initial results showed substantial heterogeneity and nonlinearity in effectiveness across birth cohorts. Criminalization seems to lower the FGC rates for teenagers, but it *increases* the prevalence rate among infant girls enormously and somewhat *increases* the prevalence rate among adults. Most of these estimates are very *imprecise*. The candidate further merged MICS with DHS to increase precision. Also, the candidate made tremendous efforts in harmonizing the geocodes and ethnicity coding across surveys for the included countries, several of which have more than 200 ethnicities.

To capture nonlinearity and effect heterogeneity, the candidate revised the econometric model. The updated model allows the effectiveness to vary nonlinearly with the *pre-reform* FGC prevalence of the region-ethnicity group to which the respondent belongs. This change in strategy substantially improves the precision and reveals a clear pattern of *conformity*; that is, families respond to criminalization according to the predetermined FGC prevalence in the region and ethnicity.

After lengthy, tedious, and careful data work, the candidate reports in his thesis tables that criminalization effectively reduces FGC practice (most effective to women from highly prevalent regions and ethnicities) but does not necessarily improve female wellbeing in several ways. First, women from families complying with the reform are 4-8 percent less likely to marry and 15-23 percent more likely to be overweight. Second, criminalization reduces secondary education enrollments *ONLY* among women from regions/ethnicities with the highest prevalence. In contrast, the reform has almost *no* impact on female education for women from a lower prevalence group. Third, perhaps most strikingly, criminalizing FGC *increases child mortality* significantly by 6.5% for married women in mid-prevalence groups, although it does not affect those from other groups. The candidate's thesis tables show that the above findings are robust, but the rest *fails* the falsification tests for any impact of the reform on literacy and early marriage.

Although the candidate reported these results clearly in the thesis *tables*, probably due to time constraints, the initial version of the thesis and the presentation were extremely confusing and misleading.

2. 審查報告 Notes from the Doctoral Thesis Review Committee (including changes required to the thesis by the referees)

The committee members provide a comprehensive list of comments to improve the thesis writing. Almost all the comments requested the candidate elaborate more on the literature review, interpret the results more clearly and convincingly, and discuss limitations more explicitly. For example, background information was lacking on what social/political factors induced some countries to criminalize FGC while others did not. It was suggested that even qualitative or anecdotal would be helpful to fill this gap. Furthermore, it was suggested to discuss one of the previous studies by Wagner in more detail given the similarity of her research and this dissertation. In terms of interpretation issues, more discussion is thought to be needed of why the criminalization of FGC led to somewhat negative results. It was also pointed out that the discussion of the impact of marriage on education and the impact of education on marriage (both of which try to disentangle the one way relationship) is irrelevant, given that the candidate estimated the impact of the reform on these outcomes.

There were several methodological issues as well. For example, it is misleading to define the final level of education for those aged 15-17 who may not have completed education, and similarly we cannot define whether they marry by age 18. Family wealth in their 20s and 40s may be very different. Also, since the variable of interest varies across countries, it would be better to allow possible dependence in the error term across time. For example, parental attitudes towards cutting can be correlated across time.

3. 最終提出論文確認結果 Confirmation by the Main Referee that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the referees

The candidate took each comment seriously. He substantially improved his writing and included one additional chapter dedicated to literature reviews. Also, I have double-checked his computer coding. I confirm that all the statistics and estimates are replicable and trustworthy.

4. 最終審查結果 Final recommendation

After substantial revisions, although the final version remains imperfect, it has reached a satisfactory level for earning a Ph.D. degree.