

2021年2月24日

博士論文審査結果報告
Report on Ph.D. / Doctoral Dissertation Defence
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
The University of Tokyo
Professor Stacey Chen
(Former Associate Professor of
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS))

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 Doctoral Dissertation Defense result.

学位申請者氏名 Ph.D. Candidate	Churaporn Charoenporn		
学籍番号 ID Number	PHD16403		
プログラム名 Program	GRIPS Global Governance Program (G-cube)		
審査委員会 Doctoral Thesis Review Committee	主査 Main referee	CHEN, Stacey	主指導教員 Main Advisor
	審査委員 Referee	高橋 和志 TAKAHASHI, Kazushi	副指導教員 Sub Advisor
	審査委員 Referee	INTARAKUMNERD, Patarapong	博士課程委員会委員長代理 Acting Chairperson of the Doctoral Programs Committee
	審査委員 Referee	LEKFUANGFU, Warn (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)	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	THE EFFECTS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ON INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS: EVIDENCE FROM THAILAND 非公式の雇用と収入に対する大学教育の影響：タイからの証拠		
学位名 Degree Title	博士 (政策研究) / Ph.D. in Advanced Policy Studies		
論文提出日 Submission Date of the Draft Dissertation	2020年7月1日	論文審査会開催日 Date of the Doctoral Thesis Review Committee	2020年7月29日
論文発表会開催日 Date of the Defense	2020年7月29日	論文最終版提出日 Submission Date of the Final Dissertation	2021年2月17日
審査結果 Result	合格 Pass		

※ 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.**

This thesis investigates how university attainment affects Thai workers' career choices (such as working in the informal sector) and earnings, emphasizing gender inequality and heterogeneity by field of study.

Getting a university degree depends on family backgrounds and local economic development, all of which could also influence their career choices and earning ability. As a result, the observed relationship between university attainment and labor market outcomes might have no causal interpretation. Labor economists address this problem using a quasi-experiment, a strong predictor of an individual's university attainment but unrelated to family backgrounds or macroeconomic conditions.

Thailand's university expansion during 2004-2005 nearly doubled the number of universities across the rapidly growing country. This policy shock provides a plausibly exogenous source of variation in an individual's decision to complete a bachelor's degree. This study shows that the expansion intensity is approximately 4 to 5 universities per million youths. This reform leads university graduation rates in provinces with relatively high intensity (above the national median) to jump up from 5 percent to 14 percent. In contrast, the graduation rates in the rest of the provinces remain nearly constant. Macroeconomic indicators (such as universal health care participation, gross provincial product per capita, and minimum wages) rose at the same rate in the high and low -intensity provinces before the reform. The drastic jump in university attainment induced by the university expansion is nearly random.

Perhaps surprisingly, before the university expansion, female workers' university graduation rates (22 percent) has already substantially surpassed men's (only 13 percent) by a large margin. Furthermore, women's university attainment responds even more strongly to the

university expansion than men's. The reform further increases female graduation rates by 22 percentage points, while only an 11-percentage-points increase for males.

This large surge in the number of university-trained workers presumably could reduce the size of Thai's informal sectors since most formal sectors' jobs require a university degree. However, this study discovers that the university expansion policy reduces informal employment only by one percent for female workers and no more than two percent for male workers. This impact on informality is tiny for several reasons, including the lack of skilled labor demand, skill mismatch/obsolete, and the modest scale of the expansion relative to Thai's vast informal sector (as large as 56 percent).

Moreover, this study quantitatively investigates how the expansion has influenced men's and women's educational and career choices and earnings differently by their field of study. Strikingly, the result suggests that a university degree strongly induces STEM women to enter the informal sector while pushing non-STEM women out of it. In contrast, a university degree induces men to leave the informal sector, regardless of majors. Also, university openings nearby cannot increase STEM women's earning potential. Interpreting these estimation outcomes requires cautions because the estimates come from compliers, who complete a Bachelor's degree only if there is a university nearby.

At the end of the defense, the committee members made constructive comments and suggestions to improve this empirical investigation, including model specifications, placebo tests, robustness checks, and potential implications such as university quality concerns.

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

The reviewers have made a wide range of comments on writing styles, identification strategies, robustness checks, placebo checks, and interpretations. The student has responded to each reviewer in a rejoinder. Please see the rejoinder submitted to GRIPS admin.

The student has taken each commend and recommendation seriously. All the reviewers have concluded their acceptance of the revised version with satisfaction.

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

To respond to the outside reviewer's long list of comments, the student undertook a substantial revision to respond to most of the questions and suggestions. All the reviewers have concluded that the revised version has reached the satisfaction level for granting a Ph.D.

4. 最終審査結果 Final recommendation

The doctoral thesis review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in Advanced Policy Studies to Ms. Churaporn Charoenporn.