

2020年4月1日

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

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.

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| 学位申請者氏名 Ph.D. Candidate | Le Thu Trang | | |
| 学籍番号 ID Number | PHD13103 | | |
| プログラム名 Program | Policy Analysis Program | | |
| 審査委員会 Doctoral Thesis Review Committee | 主査 Main referee | Minchung Hsu | 主指導教員 Main Advisor |
| | 審査委員 Referee | 藤本 淳一 Junichi Fujimoto | 副指導教員 Sub Advisor |
| | 審査委員 Referee | Ponpoje Porapakkarm | 副指導教員 Sub Advisor |
| | 審査委員 Referee | Boo Teik Khoo | 博士課程委員会委員長代理 Acting Chairperson of the Doctoral Programs Committee |
| | 審査委員 Referee | 田中 隆一 Ryuichi Tanaka 東京大学 | 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 | Essays on Family Transfers and Income Shocks in Developing Countries: Implications for Public Policy Design 途上国経済における家計内所得移転と所得ショックに関する研究：公共政策設計への含意 | | |
| 学位名 Degree Title | 博士（公共経済学）Ph.D. in Public Economics | | |
| 論文提出日 Submission Date of the Draft Dissertation | 2019年8月9日 | 論文審査会開催日 Date of the Doctoral Thesis Review Committee | 2019年9月6日 |
| 論文発表会開催日 Date of the Defense | 2019年9月6日 | 論文最終版提出日 Submission Date of the Final Dissertation | 2020年4月1日 |
| 審査結果 Result | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">合格 Pass</div> <div style="text-align: center;">不合格 Failure</div> </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.**

This dissertation aims to understand household income in developing countries. Trang studies working-age and elderly individuals separately, and specifically focuses on features of earnings for the working-age and the nature of old-age financial support in developing economies in comparison with developed economies.

One distinct feature in developing economies, compared with developed economies, is the existence of large informal sectors. Workers in the informal sector typically do not have formal employment contracts, legal benefits, social protection (e.g. unemployment insurance, minimum wage, health insurance, pension, etc.) and workers' representation. In addition, economic activities in the informal sector are typically individual or family based and less organized than in the formal sector. While the share of workers employed informally is less than 10% in developed economies, International Labor Organization (ILO) has reported that the average share of informal employment is 70% in developing countries.

Because in the literature of studying household consumption/saving/labor behaviors over the life cycle, standard analysis typically focus on formal workers, this dissertation aims to provide a fundamental analysis to understand the income profiles/uncertainties of informal workers over the life cycle and compare the differences between formal and informal workers. Household survey data from Indonesia and Vietnam are used for the estimation.

The study found that both the level and growth rate (over age) of earnings are lower in the informal sector compared with those in the formal sector. Moreover, informal workers also face higher income uncertainties than formal workers. The finding implies that informal workers are more likely to be hit by bad income shocks and fall below the poverty line.

In addition to the working-age, Trang also studies the income sources of old people in developing countries. The focus is on the intra-family transfers.

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

The committee members generally thought the topics studied in the dissertation were interesting although there was still a room for improvement.

The main comments made during the defense are as follows.

1. It is unclear how health insurance matters for the formal/informal distinction. That would be relevant in the case of employer-provided health insurance, but how does private health insurance purchased in the market relate to the formality of the job?
2. All self-employed workers in Indonesia are classified as informal workers (Table 1.2). Is this consistent with the usual definition?
3. The thesis finds a flattening pattern of the life-cycle earnings. Figure 2.2, however, does not seem to exhibit this, especially for Vietnam. How can these observations be reconciled?
4. The candidate should more formally explain what it means by the “solution” in Chapter 3 (p.38). If I understood correctly, the model here is a game between parent and child and the solution is meant to be a Nash equilibrium of that game, candidate should explain as such.
5. In Chapter 2, the analysis focuses mainly on the heterogeneous income dynamics between formal and informal workers taking the choice between formal and informal employment by workers as exogenous. However, this choice depends on both observable and unobservable characteristics correlated to income dynamics. It may be important to discuss how this self-selection of work type affects the results.
6. More discussion about the international difference in income dynamics is desirable. Some discussions on how and why the income dynamics of the developing countries studied in the dissertation is different from one of the developed countries. More importantly, the discussion on how and why the income dynamics of Indonesia is different from one of

Vietnam is important to understand the special characteristics of income dynamics in Indonesia studied in the next chapter.

7. In Chapter 3, the analysis reveals that the pure altruism motive for intergenerational income transfer is rejected strongly as in other studies on developed countries. Some discussions on how these are different from ones in developed countries are informative. More importantly, it should be discussed extensively what the motivation of intra-household income transfer is. Overall, the main contribution should be stated explicitly.
8. The core concerns of the thesis are developing countries, Indonesia and Vietnam. But the thesis does not explain the reason why it selected Indonesia and Vietnam for its case studies. For example, how are these two countries more deserving of being case studies of “informality” and “family transfers” than other countries? What specific questions and findings can be expected from using Indonesia and Vietnam? (Why, for that matter, is Indonesia missing from Table 1.1, p. 58?). The thesis should clarify these issues before launching into its technical and modelling efforts. It is indicative of this flaw that the thesis only lists two articles on developing countries, one article on Indonesia, and none on Vietnam in the References.
9. Given that individuals switched between the formal and informal sectors, how are the estimated results in this chapter affected by individuals’ selection between sectors? And is there a methodology to correct the biased estimates?
10. Why did later cohorts have a lower income growth rate (Section 2.3.2)? And did you try an estimation that allows the income growth to be different by Cohort-Sector-Education subgroup?

The members of the committee reached a conclusion that a revision is required by following the comments, and that the members would check the revised version within a week after it is submitted.

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

Trang spent about 5 months on the revision after the defense, and the revised version of dissertation together with a detailed report of changes/improvements according to the comments were submitted to the committee members on Feb 3, 2020. All committee members checked the revision and report. On Feb 10th, all of the members agreed that the revision was appropriate and satisfied with the improvement.

4. 最終審查結果 Final recommendation

The doctoral thesis review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in Public Economics to Ms. Le Thu Trang.