論文審査の要旨

(Summary of Dissertation Evaluation)

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学位授与の要件	学位規則第4条第1・2項該当		

論 文 題 目 (Title of Dissertation)

Mitigating Social Desirability Bias: Application of List Experiment in Education and Agriculture Sectors

論文審查担当者 (The Dissertation Committee)

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[論文審査の要旨] (Summary of the Dissertation Evaluation)

This dissertation explores the effectiveness of list experiments as a methodological tool in social sciences, particularly for eliciting truthful responses on sensitive topics while reducing social desirability bias. Through a literature review and multiple list experiments, the research highlights the value of indirect questioning in education and agriculture. The dissertation has three main objectives: (i) examining heterogeneous effects in list experiment outcomes, (ii) applying list experiments in the education sector, and (iii) applying them in the agriculture sector. These objectives are covered in three core chapters, each providing empirical data and policy implications from the list experiment findings. The first objective is addressed in all core chapters.

The chapters of this dissertation are as follows.

Chapter 1 presented the academic motivations and research objectives.

Chapter 2 explores academic cheating behaviors among 1,386 Vietnamese undergraduates, addressing the second research objective. Using list experiments, the study finds a significant gap between cheating prevalence reported through indirect questioning and direct questioning methods. The results show that female students cheat more in later academic years, while male students cheat across all grades. This chapter emphasizes the heterogeneous effects of academic cheating by gender and grade.

Chapter 3 addresses the third research objective by examining pesticide practice noncompliance and trust in extension services among 876 green tea farmers in Vietnam. The study reveals significant underreporting of noncompliance when using direct questioning, with list experiments uncovering a higher prevalence. This chapter also highlights gender disparities in pesticide practice noncompliance.

Chapter 4 continues to address the third objective by further analyzing farmers' trust in extension services, using cross-randomization techniques with the same sample from Chapter 3. The findings show that trust levels are overreported through direct questioning, underscoring the effectiveness of list experiments in reducing social desirability and political biases. The chapter also reveals age-related differences in perceptions of the credibility and influence of extension services.

Chapter 5 concludes the studies.

This dissertation makes two significant contributions and is highly commendable. (1) It advances social science research methodology by demonstrating the effectiveness of list experiments in uncovering hidden behaviors and thoughts. (2) Additionally, it underscores the potential for refining indirect questioning methods to sensitively explore complex social issues, offering valuable insights for policy and practice.

The core content of this dissertation has already been published as a SSCI journal article.

As a result of the above examination, the committee unanimously agreed that the dissertation is of sufficient value to confer the degree of Ph.D in Economics.

[SSCI journal article]

Nguyen, M.H., Goto, D. Unmasking academic cheating behavior in the artificial intelligence era: Evidence from Vietnamese undergraduates. *Education and Information Technologies* (2024), https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-024-12495-4 Journal Impact Factor: 4.8, Q1 (Top 3%, 16/756) in Education & Educational Research)

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