

## **Abstract of Doctoral Thesis**

# **The International Comparative Study of Women's Labor Force Participation with a Dynamic Theoretical Framework: Evidence from Taiwan and Japan**

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The aim of this paper is to build a dynamic theory to explain the longitudinal change of female labor force participation (FLFP) from a comparative perspective, with a special attention to late-industrialized societies such as Taiwan and Japan. The introduction provides the outline, followed by five chapters. The first chapter derives a new dynamic framework through data descriptions of macro data. The chapter pointed out that the standard theory of FLFP, which is modeled after Western industrialized societies, has no application in Taiwan, one of the late-industrialized societies. The dynamic theory, which considers the timing of appearances of various structural or institutional factors, can explain an irregular pattern like Taiwan's case well. The second and third chapters pick up the size of the firms, to which women work for, among structural factors, and verify its influence on females' choices of employment by event history analysis using micro data of Japan and Taiwan. Results suggest that young women's continuous employment over marriage and child bearing is made possible partly by structural factors, but that is not the case for the middle-ages who would face a disadvantage in labor market by their obligations of nursing of parents. The forth chapter demonstrates the practical advantage of the dynamic theory compared to the standard theory using macro data. The demonstration reveals that "seemingly egalitarian working lives" can emerge when FLFP are boosted without institutional supports with gender equal ideology. The fifth chapter focuses on female gender role attitudes as the consequence of the seemingly egalitarian working lives. Comparative analysis among Taiwan, Japan and Korea finds that the real situation of working lives of Taiwanese women is reflected in their contradictory attitude. To conclude, the last part refers to implications of this paper and prospects for the further development of the dynamic theory.