



Record of the dissertation thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: Ella Sargsyan

Student's ID: 45671291

Type of the study programme: doctoral

Study programme: Economics and Econometrics

Study ID: 557502

Title of the thesis: Essays in Development Economics

Thesis department: (23-CERGE)

Language of the thesis: English

Language of defence: English

Supervisor: doc. Nikolas Karl Mittag, Ph.D.

Reviewer(s): Michael Poyker, Ph.D.

Stefano Fiorin, Ph.D.

Date of defence: 23.07.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha

Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: The Defense Committee Chair initiated the defense by issuing verbal statements confirming that (i) a satisfactory number of Defense Committee Members were present, and (ii) the student Ella Sargsyan fulfilled all requirements listed in the Study and Examination Code of Charles University. The student was introduced by dissertation committee members: Štěpán Jurajda and Vasily Korovkin. After the introduction, Ella Sargsyan presented her dissertation "Essays in Development Economics", including its empirical models, datasets and estimation methodologies, and the related findings. After the presentation the main referee comments were read, which was followed by an open discussion. During the discussion Ella Sargsyan satisfactorily answered the questions raised by both referees (she submitted all answers in written form to the Defense Committee) and by the audience:

Sebastian Ottinger: Why are grains not included when controlling substitutes for potatoes? In Europe, suitability for potatoes and wheat for instance are strongly correlated. This might be the case for your states too, and would make it difficult to identify whether it is wheat or potatoes or any other substitutes, such as tuber, which drive the result. Was the information about quality of soil and household income considered?

Stanislav Anatolyev: Why was Nigeria specifically chosen as the observation country? Is it because behavior is more pronounced or due to data availability?

Sebastian Ottinger: Is there a possibility for survivorship bias? That is, mothers of boys get killed along with their boys, so that mothers of daughters are more likely to be surveyed?

Štěpán Jurajda: Consider the effect of other important dates that can be included in the interviewing date range.

Sebastian Ottinger: As one of the referees pointed out, there seems to be no cited evidence in your paper that that eating potatoes makes one taller.

Sebastian Ottinger: One of the referees pointed out that conflict especially in Nigeria is highly endogenous, can you comment on how you would respond to this concern?

Sebastian Ottinger: There seems to be literature on the effect of natural disasters on parents' gender preferences, that you should cite accordingly.

Result of defence:	pass (P)	
Chair of the board:	Anatolev Stanislav, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Ottinger Sebastian (present)
	Mikula Štěpán, doc. Ing., Ph.D. (present)