

子どもの性別に対する選好と幸福度  
—男女比較から見る日台の共通性と違いについて—  
Gender Preferences for Children, Fertility Behavior, and  
Happiness: A Taiwan-Japan Comparison

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This study investigates the gender preferences for children in Japan and in Taiwan, paying particular attention to the differences between male and female parents. For this purpose, we use the Panel Study of Family Dynamics (PSFD) in Taiwan and the Japan Household Panel Survey (JHPS), and obtained the following two main results. First, the fertility behavior estimated from the data sets matches the general movement of the sex ratio at birth (SRB) in both countries, and is consistent with strong son preference in Taiwan and weak daughter preference in Japan, pointing to the existence of gender preferences for children in both countries. Second, the happiness of male parents reacts more positively to the birth of preferred-gender children in both countries while that of female parents reacts in the same manner to the birth of sons and daughters, suggesting that those who have greater gender preferences for children are generally men but not women. These results point to the importance of changing men's preferences in order to normalize the skewed sex ratio at birth, especially, in Taiwan.