

# **Reserving Female Status — Women Reserved Seats and Gender Empowerment in Taiwan**

Applied Microeconomics, 2022 Spring

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Apr 25, 2022

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# Policy Background

Mandatory women reserved seats was codified in *ROC Constitution* since 1946

- Long before western feminism movement in 1960s
- Mainly Influenced by May Fourth Movement (新文化運動) and KMT-CCP Alliance (聯俄容共) (黃長玲, 2012)

## Women in politics

Women parliamentarians (from CEC, OECD database)

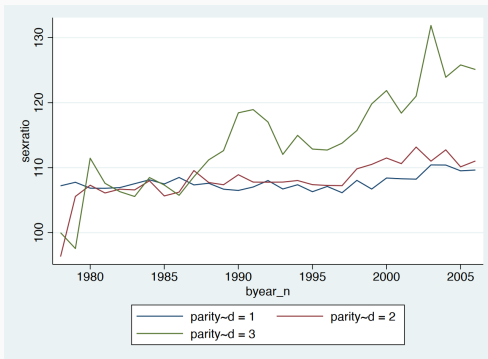
Taiwan	Korea	Japan	Singapore	Denmark	Sweden
41.6%	19%	9.9%	23%	39.7%	47%

- 1993 Constitutional Amendment
- Outcomes:
  - Increased female political representation
  - Female entrepreneurship (Ghani, Kerr, and O'Connell 2014)
  - Report of crimes against women (Iyer et al. 2012)
  - Neonatal mortality of female (Kalsi 2017)
  - Female educational attainment (Beaman et al. 2012)

# Data & Empirical Strategy

## Outcomes

- Son preference
  - Willingness to have 3rd parity (MOI birth data, 1999 — 2006)
  - Gender difference of neonatal mortality rate
- Gender role attitude (Taiwan Social Change Survey, 2006, 2011, 2016)

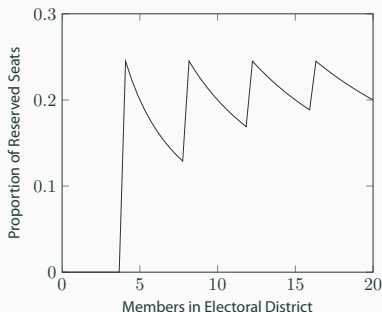


**Figure 1:** Newborn Sex Ratio by Parity

## Treatment

Council member elections, 1999 — 2006

- Endogenous treatment  $X$ : **Proportion of female council member**
- Instrument  $Z$ : **Proportion of reserved seats**
- Control for population to prevent OVB in the first stage.



**Figure 2:** Discontinuity of Reserved Seats by Policy Design

- Casual effect of political participation on gender empowerment, with neater identification.
- Potential channels of changing gender attitudes.