Sex Ratio and Religion in Vietnam

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Abstract
We examine whether the share of boys among children under 5 years of age in households and communes is associated with religious individuals in Vietnam using data from the 1999 Population and Housing Census (on 76 million people) and 2007 Establishment Census (on religious establishments). Our results show the share of boys is lower among religious households. Moreover, using Vietnam’s 1955–1974 North-South division that resulted in different religious developments, we apply a commune-level instrumental-variable approach. From this analysis, we find a higher serious follower ratio associated with a lower share of boys within communes and certain non-believer communities.

Keywords: Sex Ratio; Skewed Sex Ratio at Birth; Religion; Son Preference; Vietnam

JEL classification: J13, J16, N35, Z1

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