

Identifying the Causal Effect of Marriage on Women's Labor Force Participation with the Chinese Superstition^{*}

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ABSTRACT

Marital status may be potentially correlated with women's labor force participation through the unobservable factors. Using micro-data from Chinese Population Census, this paper exploits exogenous variation of marriage caused by Chinese Zodiac to estimate the causal effect of marital status on female labor force participation. As a result, causality of marriage has been found for both rural and urban females in China, decreasing the probability of labor force participation by 47.4% and 30.2%.

JEL classification: J12; J21

KEY WORDS: Marriage, LFP, IV, Chinese Zodiac

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