



## School Costs, Preference for Sons and Female Education

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Instructor: **Dr. Ahmed Elsayed**  
**IZA Institute of Labor Economics**

Time: Wednesday, 22 January 2020 16.15 – 17.45

Place: Feldkirchenstr. 21, FG1/00.08

Registration: The BAGSS Monthly colloquium is a mandatory event for all doctoral students.

The Lecture is open to everybody. Therefore, registration is not necessary.

### Description

We study the impact of reducing the cost of education on households' human capital investment decisions for their children and how this differs by the child's gender in a context of strong preference for sons. We exploit a unique policy reform in the education system of Egypt at the end of 1980's which reduced compulsory schooling from nine to eight years, and consequently decreased the cost of education for families. Using rich dataset and comparing treated and non-treated cohorts within schools, we show that the policy not only had positive impact on the probability to finish compulsory education, but also unexpectedly improved the probability to finish post-compulsory schooling, and raised the average age at which students leave education.

Most of this impact stems from educational improvements for girls from poorer/lower socio-economic background. We attribute this to changes in the behavior of credit constrained households who start investing more in their daughters' education when costs of education are reduced. The results are robust to different specifications. We finally further show evidence that the policy had significant long-term positive impact on labor market outcomes, age and quality of marriage, and social empowerment for the treated women.

### About the Lecturer

Ahmed Elsayed received his PhD in Economics from Maastricht University in 2015. Before starting his PhD he worked as a Research Assistant under the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) assistantship program at Maastricht University.