

Peer-Review

Lerdsirisopon, Sirin. 2025. "From Fragility to Hybrid Resilience: Institutional Learning and the Adaptive Function of Informality in Thailand's Dual Crisis (1997-2020)." *Journal of High School Science* 9 (4): 322–45. <https://doi.org/10.64336/001c.154142>

The manuscript is well researched, written and presented. However, the challenge I have with it is that the two crises are not comparable - at all. One is an internal crisis and the other is an external shock (see image attached). The only common rows are the ones with ellipses; but those are common to all economic downturns.

Therefore, you will need to pivot away from your 'comparative' fulcrum in order for this manuscript to contribute to the corpus of knowledge in this field.

I suggest any of the following

1. Does the deliberate maintenance of an 'informal economy' provide a buffer for economic downturns? Pose this question at chatgpt.com. You can then discuss this in the context of the two economic shocks.

2. What pre-emptive economic reforms will minimize the impact of either an external or an internal economic shock/downturn? Pose this to chatgpt.com as well and discuss in the context of the two economic shocks..

You are free to ideate your own pivot.

Response to Reviewer Comments Sirin Lerdsirisopon

Manuscript Title: From Fragility to Hybrid Resilience: Institutional Learning and the Adaptive Function of Informality in Thailand's Dual Crisis Trajectory (1GG7–2020)

Comment 1: "the challenge I have with it is that the two crises are not comparable at all. One is an internal crisis and the other is an external shock. Therefore, you will need to pivot away from your 'comparative' fulcrum in order for this manuscript to contribute to the corpus of knowledge in this field."

I fully acknowledge the reviewer's concern and have **reframed the manuscript's theoretical foundation and research question** to address this issue. Rather than presenting a direct comparative analysis, the revised paper now focuses on **institutional learning and adaptive resilience**, tracing Thailand's transformation from internal financial fragility in 1997 to externally adaptive resilience in 2020.

This pivot is operationalized through the introduction of the new **Hybrid Resilience framework**, which analytically connects the two crises not as parallel comparators but as **consecutive, interlinked institutional stages** in Thailand's development trajectory. The 1997 crisis is now treated as a critical juncture that triggered institutional reforms, while the 2020 crisis serves as a validation test of these reforms under an exogenous shock.

- Sections 1.1–1.2, 2, and 8 in particular

Comment 2: "Does the deliberate maintenance of an informal economy provide a buffer for economic downturns? Pose this question and discuss it in the context of the two economic shocks."

This recommendation has been **directly incorporated** into the new manuscript's central argument. The revised paper theorizes that the **informal economy functions as an adaptive shock absorber**, providing flexibility from below during crises. The informal sector's ability to absorb displaced labor and sustain consumption during the 2020 downturn is analyzed as a **temporary buffer mechanism**, contrasting with its marginalization in 1997.

However, the manuscript also emphasizes that this flexibility is **double-edged**. While it cushions macro instability, it perpetuates micro-level precarity. Thus, the Hybrid Resilience framework identifies the informal economy as both a stabilizing and constraining force.

- Sections 2.2, 7.1-7.3, 8.2 and 9 in particular

Thank you for addressing my comments. The paper is now coherent. However, it still does not satisfy the Journal's expectations of a review paper as seen here: <https://jhss.scholasticahq.com/for-authors> , types of manuscripts, review papers. Hence, you will need to present an idea/concept or method that has not yet appeared in the literature. I suggest the following (although you are free to think one of your own):
For tariff mitigation, what avenue would you suggest? Should Governments of countries that are export dependent require additional corporate taxes (as a percentage of profits) to put aside in regional banks (such as the Asian Development Bank, ADB) such that in the event of tariffs or deglobalization, subsidies can be provided to exporters for lost revenue ? Furthermore, the subsidy will be ramped UP as exporters locate other importing countries (which have less tariffs), as a way to incentivize moving away from one major importer?

Response to Reviewer Comments Sirin Lerdsirisopon

Manuscript Title: From Fragility to Hybrid Resilience: Institutional Learning and the Adaptive Function of Informality in Thailand's Dual Crisis Trajectory (1GG7–2020)

Areas of change: 1.1, 1.2, 10, Conclusion

Comment 1: “Thank you for addressing my comments. The paper is now coherent. However, it still does not satisfy the Journal's expectations of a review paper as seen here: <https://jhss.scholasticahq.com/for-authors> , types of manuscripts, review papers. Hence, you will need to present an idea/concept or method that has not yet appeared in the literature.”

The revised manuscript now includes an original, review-driven conceptual contribution: the Dynamic Trade-Risk Mitigation Reserve. This mechanism extends the Hybrid Resilience framework into the domain of external economic threats, particularly tariff shocks and global decoupling, which are increasingly central in contemporary economic literature but currently lack systematic institutional solutions.

This addition satisfies the journal's requirement that review papers advance a concept or method not yet established in existing scholarship. The reserve is framed as the next logical step in Thailand's institutional learning trajectory, operationalizing lessons from previous shocks to address the new frontier of risks.

Comment 2: “For tariff mitigation, what avenue would you suggest? Should Governments of countries that are export dependent require additional corporate taxes (as a percentage of profits) to put aside in regional banks (such as the Asian Development Bank, ADB) such that in the event of tariffs or deglobalization, subsidies can be provided to exporters for lost revenue ? Furthermore, the subsidy will be ramped UP as exporters locate other importing countries (which have less tariffs), as a way to incentivize moving away from one major importer?”
This recommendation has been incorporated directly into the new policy contribution. The manuscript now proposes a two-tiered reserve mechanism drawing explicitly from the reviewer's suggestion.

1. Base Contribution: Export oriented firms contribute a small, profit linked levy into a regionally held stabilization pool. This creates an automatic fiscal buffer against tariff shocks.

Thank you for addressing my comments. Accepted.