

Japan Association for Social Policy Studies (JASPS) 142nd Conference
Hitotsubashi University (online), Tokyo, Japan
22-23 May 2021

DAY 1 (22 May 2021)

9:30-11:30 Special Theme and Paper Sessions

9:30-11:30 Special Theme Session 1

Poverty as a Social Norm: Toward a New Theory of Poverty

Coordinator: Kazuo TAKADA (Hitotsubashi University, Professor Emeritus)

Chair: Takao SASAKI (Tokyo University of Social Welfare)

<Theme of the Session >

Poverty has been discussed in relation to social norms. The notion of the absolute poverty connotes the premise that subsistence instead of decent life is the basic policy target. And, stigma is a byproduct of meritocracy. We focus here how the social norms in the poverty have been changed and how a social norm is functioning in the specific program. We also discuss on the debate between Sen and Townsend on the concept of poverty, because we can have an upper concept to integrate the opposite ideas of them. The first presentation (Nobuo Shiga) deals with the historical change of the notion of poverty. The second, Tuyoshi Hita discuss on the advocacy service in Japan, finding the basic concept of freedom and human rights. The third, Kazuo Takada propose the upper concept for the integration, self-determination. The concept will show a direction to develop future policy on poverty.

Nobuo SHIGA (Prefectural University of Hiroshima)

Expanding the Concept of Poverty

This research investigates what triggered the expansion of the concept of poverty.

The concept of poverty has evolved as “absolute poverty → relative poverty → social exclusion” (expansion of the concept of poverty). This expansion of the concept of poverty can be understood as the development of social norms regarding “unacceptable state of life”. So, what opportunities can we take for the development of social norms regarding this “unacceptable state of life”? This paper examines two hypotheses for this opportunity: (1) economic growth and (2) the fostering of anti-discrimination social

norms.

This report will emphasize the validity and importance of (2). On the other hand, with regards to (1), although it is too often uncritically accepted as an opportunity to expand the concept of relative poverty from absolute poverty, it is not sufficiently valid to understand it as one of the important opportunities, because the economic situation in advanced capitalist countries since the 1980s, when the concept of social exclusion became common, has not necessarily been in step with economic growth.

Tsuyoshi HITA (Kyusyu University of Health and Welfare)

What “Rights” are Protected by Social Welfare?

An Examination Focused on the Social Welfare Practiced by Social Workers

A commonly cited goal in social work is the protection of rights. However, those rights are not always universally defined as a standardized, clear concept specifying whose rights and which rights are protected within the system. For instance, guardians under the adult guardianship system are responsible for protecting adults (the elderly or those otherwise unable to care for themselves) from abuse or neglect. However, the nature and extent of this protection often remain unclear. In Japan, simply applying the system’s guidelines or following formal procedures might have trivialized the meaning of the “protection of rights.” This study sought to clarify the vague concept of the “protection of rights” from the standpoint of social work, the core support method in social welfare, focusing on the “actions/activities,” “mechanisms,” “processes,” and “conditions” that protect rights. The study discussed how social workers practice the “protection of rights” and demonstrated that the rights to be protected have, at their foundation, human rights and freedoms.

Kazuo TAKADA (Hitotsubashi University, Professor Emeritus)

An integration of concept of poverty: Beyond the opposition between Sen and Townsend

The debate on the theory of poverty was done between Sen and Townsend. Its aftermath extends to the recent authors. Ruth Lister, reviewing the debate, wrote that she agreed with Townsend, but still she confessed her understanding of Sen’s argument. The core of the controversy should rest on the question where the vanishing point for poverty is. Both Sen and Townsend missed it. And my idea tells that the controversy can be solved by seeing it from the concept of self-determination. I think it is the state where we can make a self-determination. From this point we can have a new perspective on the policy on poverty, free from the old but still living concept of the poor laws.

9:30-11:30 Paper Session [A]

Employment Issues ①

Chair: Takafumi MURATA (Kyoto Prefectural University)

Yusuke TAKAHASHI (Ehime University)

Workers' Transition to Regular Employment and the Factors Influencing It

This study examined the factors that generally influence workers' transition to regular employment (employment with full benefits) from non-regular ones (fixed-term contract employment). In particular, the study focused on the pathways adopted by the workers to change to regular employment and also examined their employment status in their first jobs, along with their individual and economic attributes. The study resulted in some interesting findings. First, workers are more likely to make a transition from a non-regular employment to a regular one if they were regular employees in their first jobs. Second, married women are less likely to make a changeover, implying further that unmarried women are eager to become regular employees. Third, the use of Hello Work (the government's employment support services) facilitates women's transition to regular employment. Fourth, workers in the medical, social security, and social insurance industries are relatively likely to make a transition to small and medium-sized companies. Finally, those who leave their jobs after getting a new job are more likely to make a transition to regular employment than those who quit before finding one. Similar results were obtained when the sample was limited to only those who were regular employees in their first jobs.

Tomotaka HIRAO (Faculty of Economics, Setsunan University)

The Determinants of Educational Mismatch: Evidence from Japanese Youth Labor Market

In this paper, we analyze the determinants of educational mismatch among Japanese youth labor force, focusing on the mediating effect of early turnover after graduation. Our study used the data set of original survey that targets the youth of regional labor market in Japan. The survey was conducted in January 2017. The empirical results show that early turnover after graduation provide young people with educational mismatch, especially overeducation. In addition, after controlling for potential bias, overeducated workers earn less than their correctly placed colleagues. Early turnover after graduation has a mediating effect on decreasing the wage in the Japanese youth labor market. Our findings suggest that the prevention from early turnover after graduation plays an important role in career development of Japanese youth.

11:30-13:00 Lunch Break

SPECIAL THEME SESSION

The Pandemic and the Future of Social Policy

13:00-17:00

Chair: Takashi SUGANUMA (Rikkyo University)

Presenters: Kazue ENOKI (Hosei University)

Shuhei NAKA (Meiji Gakuin University)

Emiko OCHIAI (Kyoto University)

Kayo TAKUMA (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Discussant: Takuji TANAKA (Hitotsubashi University)

COVID-19 poses a variety of challenges to our society. We should confront these challenges and make them opportunities for a better future.

The current pandemic is comparable to the Spanish influenza of a century ago, at the end of the First World War. At that time, the ILO and LNHO (the predecessor of the World Health Organization, or WHO) were just commencing their activities, and welfare states were in their infancy. Compared to that period, can we say that today's welfare states have functioned equitably and efficiently during the pandemic? With the changing nature of work and family, the pandemic is experienced unequally. Experiences are different, for example, among those in full-time employment, those in part-time employment, and those who are self-employed, among those who can telework and those who cannot, and among those who have care responsibilities and those who do not. We need to take such differences into account and envision inclusive social policies. In addition, in a situation where vaccines may be used as a tool of soft power in international politics due to the confrontation between the United States and China, both developed and developing countries must cooperate in establishing a system of global governance in order to overcome the crisis together. In this sense, domestic social policy in each country is not separable from global social policy.

Hopefully this special theme session will provide an opportunity to examine academically the experience of the pandemic and turn it into a vision for the future of social policy.

Kazue ENOKI (Hosei University)

Infectious Diseases and Social Policy: Emergencies and Policy Formation in Modern Japan

The formation of social policy in Japan was pioneered by the Factory Law of 1911, and was developed mainly through the regulation of factory workers' working conditions and the introduction of the health insurance scheme. The Society for Social Policy Studies, established in 1897, held its first conference in 1907 on the theme of the Factory Law and stimulated public opinion for social policy. However, the Society ceased its activities in 1924.

Until now, the relationship between the historical development of social policy in Japan and infectious diseases has hardly been discussed. The Spanish influenza that struck Japan 100 years ago has also been forgotten. However, interest in countermeasures against infectious diseases such as tuberculosis increased at that time, culminating in the enactment of the Health Insurance Law of 1922 and the revised Factory Law of 1923. Minoru Oka, who was instrumental in the enactment of the Factory Law, pointed out that inattention in health issues was characteristic of Japan in the public debate over the Factory Law, but this situation changed dramatically.

This paper focuses on the formation of social policy in modern Japan, paying special attention to the impact of infectious diseases. The focus is on policies enacted during emergencies that are aimed at sustaining people's daily lives. Based on these findings, I would like to make suggestions for the future of social policy.

Shuhei NAKA (Meiji Gakuin University)

The Present and Future of the Social Security System from the Perspective of Self-Employment

The purpose of this paper is to summarize, from the perspective of self-employment, the challenges facing the social security system and the steps needed for its reconstruction. A number of emergency measures have been taken in response to the spread of COVID-19, but in the process, the inadequacy of protection for the self-employed and freelancers compared to employed workers has come to light. With the rapid development of information and communication technology, there is a growing tendency, both in Japan and abroad, for a wide variety of work to be performed as self-employment, often in the forms of individual contracting or outsourced work. This includes the platform economy, where individuals work under short-term contracts, gig work, and cloud labor. In principle, Japan's social security system and labor law policies have been based on the premise of people working under long-term employment

contracts. Today, it has become necessary to find ways to protect people who work on a self-employed basis, as they are poorly covered by the existing schemes. This paper examines the relationship between social security and the emerging self-employment practices through an analysis of original social survey data. Based on these results, I will make proposals for the building of a social security system that is not based on types of employment.

Emiko OCHIAI (Kyoto University)

Gender Issues and the Care Crisis Revealed by COVID-19: What Can Social Sciences Do to be Inclusive of Life?

A survey on telework conducted by the presenter shows that telework has become a compulsory experiment in care visualization and work-life balance. Even in cases where both husband and wife do telework, the husbands' work takes precedence and wives have become overburdened with housework. On the other hand, some increase in time spent on housework and childcare is found to have the effect of making family life happier. The ambivalent nature of care work, which is both work and life, is clearly demonstrated. It will be interesting to see what happens to the new working style brought about by COVID-19.

The Corona crisis has been identified worldwide as a gender issue that will hit women harder than men. Because COVID-19 is a disease of intimacy, it has a greater impact on women, who do most of the care work both inside and outside the home. Many women are forced to leave the workplace due to increased domestic care work. On the other side of the coin, social care work, which exposes workers to the risk of infection, is becoming more demanding, yet there has been no progress in improving those persons' labor conditions.

In these ways, COVID-19 has made visible the importance of care work in supporting life and livelihoods. It is now clear that the sustainability of society, including life and care, is an issue that demands to be addressed, as feminist economists and feminist welfare state scholars have been arguing since the 1970s and even before. The significance of feminist social sciences has been revealed, including redefinitions of work and economy, economic models that include care work, gender statistics, and the gender evaluation of policies.

Kayo TAKUMA (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

The State and Challenges of Global Health Governance

International cooperation against infectious diseases has historically developed relatively smoothly because such cooperation is mutually beneficial by nature. Why, therefore, has confrontation rather than cooperation become more apparent in the case of COVID-19? This is due to a combination of several factors, such as the growing socio-political impact of infectious diseases in the age of globalization, the decline of the liberal international order based on multilateral cooperation, and the institutional problems of global health governance.

In an international society based on realism, there are two essential elements that make international cooperation work. The first is the intention of nations to stand in solidarity against a common enemy, the virus. When the outbreak of COVID-19 began, the President of the United States was Donald Trump, who put America first, and the United States and China were in the worst relationship in history over technological hegemony and trade. Partly because the new virus originated in China, the two countries came into conflict over the pandemic as well.

The second element necessary for international cooperation to work is effort and ingenuity on the part of the international organizations seeking to achieve their goals. In the case of COVID-19, the WHO was slow to respond and made enemies of the United States because of its conciliatory attitude to China. As a result, the WHO's subsequent recommendations and appeals to countries did not work effectively. Moreover, the WHO's poor performance was deeply related to the institutional problems in health governance that existed even before the current pandemic.

In this paper, I would like to decipher the state and challenges of health governance from such a perspective.

DAY 2 (23 May 2021)

9:30-11:30 Special Theme and Paper Sessions

9:30-11:30 Special Theme Session 2

Aspects of Social Policy in the Tokai Region: Population Outflow, the Support System for Poor and Needy Persons, and Cottage Industry Labor

Coordinator: Yuki Yoshi WATANABE (Doho University)

Chair: Kazuya ASANO (TSU City College)

<Theme of the Session >

Aspects of Social Policy in the Tokai Region: Population Outflow, the Support System for Poor and Needy Persons, and Cottage Industry Labor

In the Tokai region, modern industry developed from an early stage, and the city of Nagoya, population two million, was the core of the Chukyo area's influence. However, with the exception of research regarding Toyota, there has been little debate about research on social policy in the Tokai region. Therefore, the Tokai Subcommittee, on the 20th anniversary of its establishment, decided to present a panel on such endeavors at the national convention in the hope of revitalizing social policy research in this area.

The first report deals with the relationship between the progress of aging due to population outflow and mutual aid. The second report deals with the relationship between cottage industry workers who supported the prosperity of the textile industry and their family members. And the third report presentation deals with the independence support system for the needy. All three reports capture important characteristics of the Tokai region and its livelihood problems.

Hideki FUKAI (Mie University)

The Impact of Regional Aging on Mutual Aid of Residents

A legal revision in 2017 deepened and promoted the Community-based Integrated Care System, and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has called for development of the "Inclusive Society." The Inclusive Society is based on making resident-led community development a core component of long-term care insurance. Many debates have already been conducted on the pros and cons of emphasizing mutual aid among residents in long-term care insurance, especially from the viewpoint of the public responsibility that national and local governments should

bear in social security. In addition to considering these debates, this report raises the concern that the Inclusive Society does not fully consider the impact of the aging of the regional population, owing to the declining birthrate and the outflow of the young population, on mutual aid in the region. Based on quantitative and qualitative surveys in a city in Mie Prefecture, we will consider the relationship between regional aging and mutual aid.

Naoko MAEDA (Nagoya City University, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Sewing Industry and Families in the Seino Region: Reconsideration of the “Postwar Family Model”

Since the Tokugawa Period, the Seino region (in southwest section of Gifu Prefecture) has been a rural industrial area. It once produced numerous textile products made from cotton fabrics, though the core material changed over time from cotton fabrics to wool fabrics. From the Taisho period, the spinning industry flourished. During the high growth era, the production of clothes became the core industry as various textile industries rose and declined. These industries utilized not only in the traditional cottage industry system but also modern factories. These industries were heavily dependent on female labor.

How have women’s work styles changed in line with changes in local industries? How were these changes related to the division of household labor and child-rearing? To answer these questions, this report analyzes life histories of women who worked in the sewing industry during the high growth era, and then became cottage industry workers as the “postwar family model” became mainstream. The relationship between their work and their families is examined.

Midori SUGINO (Gifu College of Nursing)

The Subjects of the Support System for Poor and Needy Persons in the Tokai Region

Five years have passed since the Support System for Poor and Needy Persons started in 2015. This system provides a “second safety net,” functioning as a preliminary step towards getting public assistance.

The law was amended in 2018 to support people facing financial distress because of difficult employment, mental, or physical situations, or difficult relationships with their local communities. Before the amendment, the law stated only that its subjects were those currently facing financial distress who might not be able to maintain a minimum standard of living. Municipalities are responsible for implementing

policies to support the lifestyle independence of distressed persons.

The standard for measuring economic hardship is not clearly established. Therefore, each operating center operates by adjusting to the conditions and limits of the municipality in which it is based. As a result, regional characteristics and differences have become apparent.

This report presents the achievements of one city in the Tokai region in implementing the new policy region, comparing the outcomes to public assistance recipients in the same city. Next, the outcomes are compared to the survey results for independence support system consultants in other regions. Finally, this research is used to consider to what extent economic hardship is targeted.

9:30-11:30 Paper Session [B]

The Poverty Problem

Chair: Akiko MATSUE (International University of Health and Welfare)

Yui OHTSU (Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Saitama University)

**Kuriko WATANABE (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research)
The Correlation between Deprivation and Health: Evidence from a National Survey in Japan**

In this study, we aimed to examine the correlation between deprivation and health in Japan. Deprivation, which is defined as an “enforced lack of necessities,” is the key non-monetary indicator of poverty to complement monetary indicators such as income. Utilizing microdata from the “National Survey on Social Security and People’s Life” conducted by the Japanese National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2017, we regressed three indicators of health (self-rated health, activity limitation, and K6) on deprivation with income poverty and socio-demographic factors controlled.

The main finding was that being deprived significantly increased the probability of poor self-rated health, limitations in usual activities, and depression. Conversely, the negative effect of income poverty was not observed after adjusting for deprivation. These results suggest that deprivation has a stronger negative impact on health than income does. Measuring poverty by only income may underestimate the effect of poverty on health.

Yurie MOMOSE (University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Education)

Unhealthy but Not Disabled in Japan: An Analysis of the Difficulties that People in Gray Areas Undergo

In recent years, there has been a growing need to promote ties between social security policies and labor policies. This need has shed light on the problems caught in the gap between various policies. Previous studies have been focusing on national policies, including welfare services and labor support policies for people with disabilities based on the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities, and the pension systems and employment policies for the elderly. However, there are people who are unhealthy or have disabilities but do not fall into any of those disability/elderly categories, and it is highly likely that those people have slipped through the nets of both welfare and labor policies. In order to gain access to disability benefits, they must be certified by the local government. Those who are not being certified are possibly in the gray areas. Thus, they might be excluded from any social protection programs and undergo hardship.

The purpose of this study is (1) to identify those who are in the gray areas, (2) to clarify what kind of benefits they receive or miss, and (3) to examine the differences between the benefits that people in gray areas would receive and those that disability certificate holders would obtain by analyzing a set of official statistical data.

Takayuki KONDO (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Katsuhito KAJIWARA (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Kazuki KURIHARA (Hitotsubashi University)

Chengchen TANG (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Masako HAYASHI (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Mingyang LIU (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Aya ABE (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Attitudes Toward Support for University Students from Low-income Families: Positioning Japan Among Other Countries

According to OECD, the tuition for tertiary education in Japan is one of the highest among the OECD countries. Previous studies have pointed out that the Japanese government's low spending on higher education was thought to be associated with notion that the cost for education of children should be borne by parents. At the same time, the recent introduction of tuition waver and reduction as well as scholarship for student from low-income families indicate that Japanese people are willing to support students if they are poor. However, there are few empirical studies on

whether Japanese citizens actually want the state to bear the cost of higher education compared with other countries.

Therefore, in this paper, we use data from the “Role of Government” survey conducted by the ISSP (International Social Survey Programme) in 2016 to compare the general public’s preferences for “assistance to university students in low-income families” in OECD countries, and clarify the position of Japan among these countries.

9:30-11:30 Paper Session [C]

Employment Issues ②

Chair: Charles WEATHERS (Osaka City University)

Naoko SATO (Kawasaki City)

Gender Gaps in the Career Paths of Local Government Executives

This paper analyzed career paths of general clerical executives who had served for designated city A at director-general level or relevant level from the perspective of specific job contents and gender comparison. Though the examination of all female director-general level executives in the last 50 years regardless of job types, it was confirmed that there was no female director-general level executive whose job type was “general clerical” in designated city A. Then by conducting the interview survey for the 11 executives through semi-structured interviews, it was analyzed that the female executives were assigned to job descriptions that made them difficult to acquire enough “judgement ability for administrative decision making” in the first half of their careers, while male executives were assigned to appropriate positions in their career paths. It was confirmed that there was a clear gap between male and female executives at the initial stage of their careers.

In addition, it was also recognized that when the female executives suddenly got transferred to the posts that required them to make decisions of local government 20 to 25 years after they started their working careers at the city government, they managed to use human network mainly to make up for their lack of experiences.

Jiro TAKEDA (Graduate School of Social Studies, Doshisha University, post-doc)

The employment of professionals: why the number of “highly professional workers” in Japan does not increase.

In 2019, the pay system for “highly professional workers,” which was aimed to be one of the primary means to promote “work style reform,” was introduced. The system’s concept dates back to 2005 when the Japan Business Federation

(Keidanren) proposed a “white-collar exemption.” Since then, much discussion has developed among politics, bureaucracy, business, and labour. Finally, the system was put into force. However, currently, the examples which have applied to it seem to be relatively rare.

This report aims to offer some suggestions that may lead to understanding the cause of that rarity by mainly focusing on research and development people. A critical reason is that most professionals in Japan tend not to match with the ideal professionals, which Eliot Freidson (2001) described in *Professionalism: The Third Logic*. Moreover, the mismatch has grown as popular mainstream theories of business strategy have permeated through Japanese companies. This paper attempts to demonstrate it by reviewing the relevant literature.

Shintaro MATSUNAGA (Nagano University)

Daisuke NAGATA (Meisei University)

Life transitions and ‘Corporate-oriented society’ on freelance work: Focusing on the women’s workstyles in the animation industry

In terms of female workers in employment relations, the institutions to balance work and childbirth/childcare and continue working in Japanese society have developed in recent years. Still, they have not focused on freelance women workers who are in seemingly gender-neutral competitions. This paper will clarify how they prepare for life transition while working as freelancers in such a Japanese society. For this purpose, we analyzed the life course narratives from the interviews with freelance female animators. As a result, it became clear that freelance work has difficulties coping with life transitions, making them hesitant to make the transition itself in some cases. They cope with difficulties after the transition by taking advantage of their high discretion. Some of the life transitions were due to the instability of freelancers in general, and some were due to women’s specific life events such as marriage and childbirth.

9:30-11:30 EDUCATION SESSION

Chair: Harumi OBI (CHUO University)

Theme: What Graduate Students and Young Researchers Need to Know about Submissions to Refereed Journals

Presenters

Yusuke HATAMOTO (Doshisha University)

Tomoji ONOZUKA (University of Tokyo)

Kingo TAMAI (Aichi Gakuin University)

11:30-12:45 Lunch break

12:45-14:45 Special Theme Session 3

Women's Impoverishment by COVID-19 and "Work, Family and Rights"

Chair/Coordinator: Takeo KINOSHITA (Showa Women's University)

<Theme of the Session>

The spread of COVID-19 is causing problems with long periods of absence from work, layoffs and hiring. In particular, the impact on female workers has been pointed out, and the number of suicides has been increasing. However, the factors and processes that contribute to why women have more difficulties with COVID-19 have not been fully elucidated.

Therefore, we interviewed women who had provided labor consultations related to COVID-19 to labor NPOs and labor unions since February 2020 about their progress since then. A follow-up study was conducted on 60 subjects. Based on this survey, we will discuss the impact of the survey from the perspective of work, family, and the exercise of rights.

The first paper will report on the changes in the positioning of women workers in the household and the manifestation of problems by COVID-19. The second paper will discuss how occupations and hierarchies have changed family relationships in the COVID-19 disaster. The third paper will discuss the difficulties in exercising rights in the workplace and the resignation of workers.

Satomi MIKAMOTO (Rikkyo University)

Transformation of Female Workers from “Household Support” to “Household Maintenance” and the Impact of COVID-19

The spread of the COVID-19 has had a major impact on employment, especially in service industries that involve contact with people, such as restaurants and retail stores. These industries have a high percentage of female workers, and many of them are non-regular workers. Such store closures should normally be covered. However, there have been a number of cases where the absence allowance has not been paid.

This non-payment has had a significant impact on household finances. This is because the position of women in the household is changing. (1) The number of unmarried women who are “self-reliant” is increasing. (2) An increasing number of married women workers are taking on “household maintenance” roles with their husbands, rather than “household support” roles.

Thus, the changes from before COVID-19 have amplified the impact of COVID-19 on employment and families. In this report, the above changes will be analyzed based on interviews with female workers.

Naoyuki IMAOKA (Okinawa University)

Changes in Family Relationships in COVID-19: Focusing on Occupation, Hierarchy, and Care Burden

Various changes in workplaces and schools associated with the spread of COVID-19 are affecting the work styles and care burden of female workers. In this context, changes in family relationships are emerging. For example, when household members telework, they are able to stay home longer than before, which improves family relationships. On the other hand, there are many occupations where telework is not possible, especially in the service sector where many women are employed. Also, the lower the income group, the more workers are exposed to infection risks. In some cases, this results in the deterioration of family relationships.

With regard to the burden of care, the simultaneous closure of children’s schools and telecommuting of household members have increased the burden of household work. This may increase stress among women, who bear a larger share of the household burden, and affect family relationships. In this report, the above changes will be analyzed based on interviews with female workers.

Kotaro AOKI (General Support Union)

**Addressing Labor Issues of Women Workers and their Consequences in COVID-19:
Patience, Lay-off, Occupational Change and Exercise of Rights**

Many women workers faced labor problems such as dismissal and absence from work in COVID-19. The damage done to these women was revealed through the press. However, little is known about how they dealt with labor issues and what the results were. They have three main ways of dealing with labor issues. The first is patience. They face labor problems and are troubled, but they persevere and keep working. The second is lay-off and occupational change. This refers to cases where people resign due to labor problems. After that, there are two types of people: those who remain unemployed and those who change jobs. The third is the exercise of rights. This is a case of negotiating with the company to improve the labor problem.

In most of the second cases, income was lower than it was before COVID-19. On the other hand, in the third case, some results were achieved by conducting labor-management negotiations. They tended to be able to maintain their standard of living better than if they had given up.

In this report, we will analyze these actions and their results based on the interviews.

12:45-14:45 Paper Session [D]

Labor-Management Relations

Chair: Hitomi MATSUBARA (Shizuoka University)

Joonhee PARK (Saitama University, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Solidarity between the labor movement and university students: From the case of the Korea Railroad Workers' Union strike in 2013

The Korea Railroad Workers' Union went on strike against the privatization of railways from December 09 to December 31, 2013. One of the key characteristics of this railway strike is that university students across the country organized a movement to support the railway strike. Many universities students across the country posted hand-written posters supporting the railway strike, and in Seoul, South Korea, held demonstrations supporting the strike. In Korea, there are few cases where young people support labor union activities, so this case has an important meaning in the history of labor movement. However, it is not yet clear why young people supported the strike of railway workers. Therefore, this research

reveals the reason why university students supported the strike by using 200 hand-written posters posted at universities nationwide. Also this research examines the relationship between the social and economic conditions faced by young Koreans at that time and the railway strike. At last, this research examines the mechanism how labor movement can be supported by young generations.

Takuya IWASA (Graduate School of Human Development and Environment, Kobe University)

German Meat Industry under the Corona Crisis: On “Organized Irresponsibility”

Travel and meals are often the focus of attention as a place for coronavirus infection to spread, but perhaps even more important is the workplace. There is a structure in which workers are forced to go to work even if they take the risk of infection for fear of income decrease and employment loss as well as long-term crowding. The German meat industry is a clear example of this problem. Since May 2020, the infection has spread rapidly in meat factories, and “organized irresponsibility” has been pointed out as a major factor. That is, many of the workers are procured from Eastern European countries through contracts, and the widespread use of these contracts obscures the responsibility for infection control. There have been criticisms of contracting for some time, but after the Corona crisis, it became the focus of public opinion, and a law banning contracting in the meat industry from 2021 was enacted. In this report, I would like to use these materials to clarify the process by which labor problems develop in a unique way during the corona crisis.

12:45-14:45 Paper Session [E]

Social Security ①

Chair: Kimihiko ISHIKAWA (Okinawa University)

Naoko MATSUMOTO (University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences)
Changes in Policies against Mass Unemployment under Crises: One Example of Germany as a <Social State>

This paper focuses measures which German social state (Sozialstaat) has taken under crises with the concern about mass unemployment; namely two different past policies and current ones under the corona crisis. For three decades after 1970s, which could be characterized as ‘employment crisis,’ the German labour market responded recession through labour force reduction by means of early retirement.

However, this framework was not sustainable from the viewpoint of pension finance. Boosted by the activation paradigm in social policy including pension policy since 1990s, it was the instrument of short-time work allowance rather than early retirement, that German federal government adopted extensively under the world economic crisis in 2008/09. This instrument is designed to maintain employment and to lighten the burden of employers, whereby employers temporally reduce working time of their employees (up to 100%) instead of laying them off. Employees can be compensated partially the missing net wage by the Federal Employment Agency. This scheme, which enabled Germany's 'employment miracle,' has been currently expanded during Covid-19. At the same time, German government has proceeded for non-workers, including the unemployed. This paper also gives thoughts to financial aspects.

Shioto FUKUICHI (Chubu Gakuin University, Associate Professor)

The Future of the State-Civil Society Relations in the “Neo-liberal Turn”: The Case of the LSS Reforms in Sweden

This study focuses on the recent changes in disability policy in Sweden. As is well known, Sweden has been characterized by a substantial welfare provision by the public sector financed by tax revenue. In recent years, however, there have been some changes in disability policy that make us suspect that it is becoming increasingly neo-liberalization. For example, there has been a sharp decline in the number of recipients of disability pensions (Aktivitetsersättning och sjukersättning) (Fukuchi 2020) and the strengthening of supply-side measures in wage subsidies.

Since 2016, there has been a controversy in Sweden in recent years over a proposed reform of the LSS Act, the country's basic law for welfare services for people with disabilities. In this study, we will look at the main points of the 2018 government survey report, which provided the opportunity to determine the direction of the proposed LSS reform, and the reactions of various disability organizations to it. The final aim of our work is to shed light on the state-civil society relations in the “neoliberal turn” (Hort et al., 2020) of disability policy in Sweden.

Toshihiro TAKAHASHI (Bukkyo University, Graduate student)

Industrial structure and social security: Clothing manufacturing and social security in G City

Immediately after the war, many micro businesses started the garment manufacturing industry in G city, and it was a domestic production area in the 1980s.

However, the garment manufacturing industry has been declining due to globalization since the 1990s and imports from overseas. On the other hand, these businesses have almost no livelihood security, and it is not uncommon for them to fall into poverty when they quit their businesses. Furthermore, life in old age cannot be lived on the national pension alone. Therefore, the important role is social security, but the national government emphasizes the self-responsibility of social security and reduces pensions and medical expenses in old age. Given that it is the constitutional principle that social security be carried out under the responsibility of the state, the reduction of social security comes violation of the right to life. Clarify the ideal from of social security that protects the lives of workers from the industrial structure and social security.

15:00-17:00 Special Theme and Paper Sessions

15:00-17:00 Special Theme Session 4

An International Comparison of Policy Initiatives Aimed at Supporting People Facing Employment Difficulties

Chair: Makoto ABE (Oita University, Professor Emeritus)

Discussant: Sung-won KIM (University of Tokyo)

<Theme of the Session>

As the employment circumstances for young people deteriorated in Japan in the 1990s, the assistance for people who face difficulties seeking employment has attracted greater academic and social attention. Job Assistance Program was introduced as Government policy under the Act on Self-reliance Support for Needy Persons in 2015. On the other hand, in many countries the job assistance programs are more formally embedded within welfare policies. These are often discussed as activations and work-fare. However, there are many differences between countries in terms of schemes and methods of the job assistance programs.

It is important to discuss some issues regarding the assistance policies for people who face difficulties seeking employment, such as its relationship with income security, system and methods of the assistance for them, through international comparison to consider how the job assistance programs should be.

The aim of our research project is to examine some features of job assistance policies in some countries and to discuss some issues regarding job assistance policies through comparison of them. In this session, we will discuss the job

assistance policies of the United States and Denmark.

Takao SASAKI (Tokyo University of Social Welfare)

Work Assistance Programs for the Low-income in the United States

This report aims to analyze the relationship between public assistance programs for low-income individuals and work assistance programs in the United States.

In addition to the demographic segmentation of recipients, U.S. public assistance programs are characterized by structural diversity, as exemplified by systems including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that are focused solely on a specific benefit type and mechanisms like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that are based on the American tax system and not part of public assistance programs. It is also necessary to attend to the relationship between the federal government and each state as well as differences in system operations depending on the state.

By illuminating the varying degrees of emphasis placed on employment in those programs, the author hope that this report will contribute to the elaboration of this session's theme, an international comparison of "work assistance policies" for people who have difficulty finding employment.

Soichiro KATO (Ibaraki University Social Cooperation Center)

Development of the activation approach to Danish public assistance recipients

In Denmark, the number of public assistance recipients had increased due to the long-term economic recession since 1973. In 1994, the center-left government (1993-2001) introduced activation policies to public assistance recipients.

Since then, the number of public assistance recipients, mainly young people, had decreased until the 2008 financial crisis. However, there was no declining trend among middle-aged and older people and non-European immigrants and refugees who need support such as health, medical care or language education.

Recently, there has been concern that the child generation of public assistance recipients will be affected by "social heritage" as negative impact on later life due to their growing environment.

15:00-17:00 Paper Session [F]

Social Security ②

Chair: Yumiko TANAKA (Shimonoseki City University)

Soshiro YAMADA (Nihon Fukushi University, Faculty of Social Welfare)

Keita SAKURAI (Ritsumeikan University, College of Social Sciences)

Parliamentary Debate and the Mass Media Regarding Public Assistance

Previous studies that have historically examined the policy formation process of public assistance have often used the testimonies of welfare bureaucrats and policy documents as analytic materials. Although bureaucracy plays a predominant role in Japan's political system, the political influence of the mass media needs to be examined. This study provides an overview of how the media has influenced the politics of public assistance in the postwar period. Using a database of Diet proceedings, we analyzed the frequency at which public assistance was discussed in the Diet and found that media coverage of public assistance was extremely scarce until the 1990s. However, media coverage and related Diet debates abundant in the 2000s. In addition, a text analysis of Diet members' statements that relied on media reports showed that media reports were utilized in an advocacy capacity against welfare recipients until the 1990s. Since the 2000s, reports have nonetheless been used in a critical manner as well.

Takashi KARIYA (Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of Social Science)

The Historical Development of Japan's Policies of Independence Support: Focusing on the Discourse about Self-Reliance from the 1940s to the 2010s

In this report, the concept of self-reliance that has been the keynote of Japanese social policy historically, and the following features are examined. Japan responded to poverty by introducing a public assistance system based on the principle of self-reliance after the end of the Second World War. At that time, self-reliance had an ambiguous nature. On the one hand, it aimed to integrate individuals into a specific place and create order, on the other hand, it meant respect for the will and freedom of activity of the individuals. During the period of creation of the social insurance system, self-reliance was tied up with the purpose of economic development. Since the 1970s, however, the movement of the disabled has led to a redefinition of work and of self-reliance. These redefined concepts meant that individuals have the freedom of choosing their activity. Since the 2000s, policies of independence support have been introduced for the new poor social stratum, such as the working poor and non-regular workers. These policies are aiming not only to integrate individuals in

the labor market, but also to respect the choice and the freedom of individuals by utilizing various welfare providers and expand opportunities for social participation.

Based on the results of this research, we outline the implications for Social Assistance and also reveal the situation of multidimensional poverty in Japan.