

Creativity of the Narrative of Suffering of Korean A-Bomb Survivors: How reconciliation and redress might be achieved

Motoji MATSUDA

The purpose of this essay is to consider how the suffering caused by Japanese colonization and invasion could be eased in an East Asian context and how transnational solidarity among citizens might be possible without getting caught up in excessive nationalism and ethnocentrism.

Looking into the politico-cultural landscape in East Asia today, we easily recognize the heightened tension between Korea, China and Japan. In the modern history of East Asia, the Empire of Japan exercised hegemony over other nations. It colonized Korea at the beginning of the last century. It also invaded China with much bloodshed and set up a puppet regime in the northeastern China, Manchukuo. This history caused indescribable suffering and great animosity and resentment among the victimized people in East Asia. It clearly led to the present anti-Japanese sentiment in Korean and Chinese society.

Then, how could these sufferings caused by state violence be healed? How could we, the citizens of East Asia reconcile with one another? Seventy years or more have passed since Japan's defeat and many war-victims have died without any compensation or apology from Japan; however, some survivors such as Korean A-Bomb sufferers (*hibakusha*) began to speak out about painful experiences in order to restore their violated human dignity. How should their voices be heard and how can their lost human dignity be restored? And lastly, how might the reconciliation between those peoples be reached?

When an individual victim requests positive measures of redemption for past suffering, there emerges a community of suffering. In this community, each personal oral narrative would be repeated and stylized. This study will focus on this point and examine its creative potential.

Transformation of the welfare state in France and care for children: Testing the “Asianization of Europe” hypothesis

Emiko OCHIAI

This article is an outcome of a project on changing childcare and elderly care and the roles of family, state, market and community in France and other parts of Europe, as compared with Asian countries. Due to rapid changes on both sides, a new landscape is emerging. We are discussing welfare retrenchment and refamilialization in Europe and the development of welfare states in Asia. We are inclined to ask if Europe is becoming Asia and if Asia is becoming Europe. This article is a result of the project to test these hypotheses based on data analyses on European countries and intensive field works on childcare in France.

“Asianization of Europe” is defined firstly as the decrease in public social expenditure. The analysis of the OECD data on social expenditure since the 1980s denies it, while it proves a shift from pension spending to family benefits which we can call the rise of a social investment welfare state. The alleged shift from in-kind benefits to cash benefits is not supported in the area of family spending in most countries but France that saw a decline in in-kind family benefits, which reflects the policy direction to promote individual contracts with *assistantes maternelles* instead of constructing new crèches.

“Asianization of Europe” can also be defined as the changing shape of the care diamond that consists of four sectors: state, market, family and association or community. The market sector is expanding for commodification of care is wide-spread, but regulation and subsidies from the state are indispensable for its development. The association sector is playing a significant role particularly in the area of child protection, but it is also receiving regulation and subsidies from the state. The grandparents in the family and kin sector have always been a great support for the parents, but their current role

is complementary to the state: they are filling the gap between formal childcare and necessity. The shape of the care diamond has changed, but it does not mean that the state sector has shrunk. On the contrary, the state sector has even expanded and mixed with the other three sectors, playing the roles of regulator and financier.

To conclude, at least in the area of childcare in France the “Asianization of Europe” hypothesis cannot be supported.

W. Schluchter's Reconstruction of the Weberian Research Program: Weber-Reception in the Context of Contemporary Sociological Theory (1)

Noriyuki TANAKA

This paper will examine which contemporary sociological theories are referred to, and how, in Wolfgang Schluchter's reconstruction of the Weberian research program in his main works from the 1970's to the 2010's; it will make clear how the characteristics of the reconstructed Weberian research program and its location among sociological theories have changed; and investigate how these changes are related to the context of contemporary sociological theory.

In his first attempt to systematize the Weberian research program, *Die Entwicklung des okzidentalen Rationalismus* (1979), Schluchter, using conceptual frameworks borrowed from Parsons, Luhmann and Habermas, reconstructs Weberian sociology as a "history of society [*Gesellschaftsgeschichte*] of the West", and claims to place it in an intermediary position between "the universal-historical comparison" and (functionalist and logical) evolutionism. However, he practically reconstructed it along the lines of the evolutionist perspective. This problem has something to do with the ambiguous status of the sociological theories developed after Weber (especially those of Parsons, Luhmann and Habermas) in Schluchter, because they are not only sources of frameworks available for interpreting Weber's texts but also alternative approaches to the Weberian research program reconstructed by him. Furthermore, other aspects of Weberian sociological theory, especially that of the microfoundation of his macrosociology, are not investigated sufficiently.

How these problems are dealt with in his later studies on Weber, and how the changes in his conception of Weberian sociology are related to the trend of contemporary sociological theory, will be discussed in the second half of this paper, to appear in the next issue.

Generalized Algebraic Method for Decomposing Social Change into Cohort-Replacement and Individual-Change Effects

Hiroshi TAROHMARU

As many sociologists argue, the birth of a new cohort and the death of an old cohort may have some effects on social change. This is called the cohort replacement effect, which can be estimated with several statistical methods, decomposing social change into cohort-replacement and individual-change effects. One of these methods is the algebraic decomposition method which Firebaugh proposed, applying Kitagawa's classical decomposition method to cohort analysis. As Firebaugh admits, however, the algebraic decomposition method has a limitation in that the estimation bias is large when it is applied to a long term social change. In this paper, we resolve this limitation through generalizing it with data sets covering three or more periods. We show that long term social change can be divided into several successive short term changes whose cohort replacement effects are estimable with little bias. The sum of these cohort replacement effects on the successive short term social changes is proved equal to the long term cohort replacement effects. We illustrate the advantage of our generalized method with a simple example.

Economic Sociology and the Theory of the Firm: Lessons from the “Toyota Momentum” in the History of Capitalism

Stéphane HEIM

After five decades of numerous and meticulous research studies on Toyota Motor Corporation and its production system, some of its most cherished secrets still remain hidden from economic and management literature. Whereas economic action, the firm, and the market are often thought to be the sole domain of economists or management scientists, this paper claims that a critical stance of economic sociology can unveil some unseen aspects of economic life. As a result of a ten-year in-depth study of Toyota and the Japanese automotive industry, this paper presents and discusses a research agenda rooted in economic sociology on the peculiarities of this firm. At the core of this agenda lies a central assumption regarding the place and role of the firm in contemporary capitalism: One needs to rethink and draw the boundary lines between the firm as the sphere of production on the one hand, and the corporation as the process of capital accumulation on the other. By doing so, some other important concepts such as supply chains or inter-firm relationships, that are taken for granted and remain unquestioned in economic literature, are here coupled with new notions, sociotechnical fields and inter-corporation relationships. In the current era of financialization of corporate governance and “regionalization” of industries, this reconceptualization helps to tackle from new perspectives crucial issues such as employment relationships, public policies, firms’ strategies, and shareholder value.

Analysis of Criteria for Men's Spouse Selection: Focusing on Socioeconomic Status

Kei NAGASE

In Japan, although the relationships between a married couple's socioeconomic status (for example, education, occupation, income) have been extensively studied, few analyses have been done on spouse selection criteria, especially those of men. In order to elucidate the factors of spouse selection, analysis of unmarried people is necessary. Furthermore, unlike the era when sexual division of labor was common, in recent years the number of dual income families has considerably increased and women's income contributes greatly to family budget, so this could possibly change men's preferences in their marriage partner's socioeconomic status.

Therefore, using the data from 8th Survey on Marriage and Childbirth (2014) conducted by Meiji Yasuda Institute of Life and Wellness Inc., I try to clarify the criteria for men's spouse selection, focusing on socioeconomic status. Through statistical analysis, I examine how men's socioeconomic status (education, employment status and income) is connected with their preference in spouse's socioeconomic status. Analyzing the data, I use a multiple regression model and ordered logistic regression model.

The results are summarized as follows. While a man's employment status has no effect on their preference for the spouse's occupation (job description, company), there is a positive relationship between a man's educational background and the degree of respect for the woman's educational background: higher educated men pay more attention to the woman's educational background. In addition, there is also a positive relationship between the income of men and the amount of income asked for marriage partner: men with higher incomes require that their potential spouses have higher incomes as well.

How Violence Against Persons with Albinism Became a Worldwide Social Problem: Review of Tanzanian Publications 1979–2016

Yukie NAKAO

Albinism is a congenital condition that causes a lack of pigmentation in the body, and persons with albinism (PWAs) have certain special physical features such as white skin vulnerable to the ultraviolet rays, pale-colored hair, and dysfunctional eyes accompanied by nystagmus, photophobia and low vision. Since the end of 2007, cruel acts of violence against PWAs (including murders) in Tanzania have been reported by local and international media, and the news immediately drew significant attention around the world. The killings of PWAs immediately became recognized as a serious social problem where human rights were being violated by uneducated locals with superstitious beliefs.

The aim of this paper is to examine the processes and factors that rendered violence against PWAs in Tanzania a worldwide social problem. Based on the social constructionist approach towards social problems, first, this paper sketches the dynamics of the claims-making activities. Second, this paper explores the history of social labelling on PWAs in the pre-albino-killing Tanzanian society, mainly by reviewing local publications. By the early 1980s at the latest, Tanzanian society has provided PWAs with the social positions as a distinctive target group of dermatological medical service and an outstanding advocative actor representative of the people with disabilities. Taking these facts into account, this paper criticizes the previous interpretations of killings of PWAs as inappropriate localization of the problem. Killings of PWAs indicate the contemporary problematic relationship between the concept of disability, the concept of human rights, and the biomedical categorization of people.

The Structure of Issue Attitudes in Japan: An Analysis Using Data from the PIAS Survey

Yu IKEDA

The purpose of this article is to understand how public attitudes toward various policy issues are related to each other. Voters often agree or disagree with government policies for different reasons. Data from the Survey of Political Ideology and Attitudes toward Science (PIAS Survey) is used to reveal the underlying dimensions of issue attitudes in Japan. A series of confirmatory factor analyses shows that 11 issue attitude items constitute four dimensions: LDP politics, traditional order, social equality, and family diversity. These four dimensions are not independent but related to each other. In addition, structural equation modeling results indicate that ideological identification significantly predicts all four factors. Specifically, those who consider themselves as more conservative are more supportive of LDP politics and traditional order, and less supportive of social equality and family diversity. Additional analyses demonstrate that the findings of this article are robust even if we limit the analysis to respondents with higher levels of political knowledge.

Contingent Employment in Japanese Establishments: Union's Responses on the Use of Part-Time Workers

Yunwei GUO

Japan has witnessed a significant increase in contingent employment since the 1990s. A majority of establishments in Japan use regular workers and contingent workers simultaneously. In this paper, the author focuses on unions to determine how they have balanced diversity in the workplace, and how they have influenced the percentage of part-time workers on the establishment level. The author divides the effects of unions at both the industrial and establishment level. Furthermore, the author divides establishment-level unions into three types based on the participants. Specifically, the first one is the establishment union that limited its participants to regular workers, the second one is the establishment union also included contingent workers besides the regular workers, and the third one is the establishment that has no union. This paper addresses these issues by analyzing the "Survey on Diversified Types of Employment" conducted by the Japan Institute for Labor Policy and Training (JILPT) in 2010. In the analysis, this paper will apply a tobit regression model, and differentiate between the small or medium-sized establishments and large establishments.

The statistical results show that unions have generally reduced the percentage of part-time workers at the establishment level. Specifically, 1) the percentage of part-time workers at the establishment level tend to be low in when the unionization rate at the industrial level is high, 2) the percentage of part-time workers at the establishment level tend to be lower when establishment-level unions limited its participants to regular workers than other types of union, and 3) when there is a high industrial unionization rate, the difference between different types of unions at the establishment level will be smaller. However, these three observations apply only to large establishments. For small or medium-sized establishments, whether the establishment is in service industry influenced the percentage of part-time workers at the establishment level.

How to Tackle the Concept of School Bullying in International Comparative Studies: Applying the Idea of “Family Resemblance” to Concept Analysis of Bullying

Yiwei YAO

School bullying is recognized as a public issue in a number of countries, and international comparative studies about school bullying have been performed for two decades. However, few comparative studies have been conducted outside European countries, especially between European and Asian countries. In an earlier study, I determined that there is no globally-recognized common definition of bullying. Furthermore, the definition of bullying used in each country manifests a structure of “family resemblance”, meaning no one feature is common to all definitions, and only a series of overlapping similarities could be found. In a word, the international study of bullying lacks a widely acceptable standard for framing the object, a major obstacle to the international study of bullying.

To establish a comparatively generally applicable standard, I adopt the idea of “family resemblance” in concept understanding and analyzing of bullying. In Section 2, I reviewed three approaches of concept studies, and argued that “effects of knowledge” on a family resemblance category construction, advocated by Gregory Murphy, would be an appropriate theoretical base for my study. In Section 3, I applied Murphy’s idea to the concept construction analysis of bullying. As a further step, I adopted the concept apparatus of “relationship symbol” for visualizing the effect of knowledge in concept construction.