

Estimates of Rates from Snowball Sample: A Monte Carlo Simulation

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Non probability sampling is often employed in many disciplines including sociology. Despite this, their sampling errors are understudied. We calculated errors from a type of non probability sampling: snowball sampling. After generalizing the standard error for non probability sampling, we did monte carlo simulations that five to fifty respondents are snowball-sampled from artificial populations where error correlations exist between friends. Their results show (1) ESS decreases as its sample size increases, (2) the starting respondent of snowball sampling does not affect ESS, and (3) ESS from simple estimates of rate with binomial distribution is smaller than estimates assuming error correlations between referring and referred respondents, especially when sample size is small.

“Race to the Bottom” in International Labor Market: Price Control Policies in the Technical Intern Training Program, Japan

Wako ASATO

“The race to the bottom” is a competitive principle among states as players in the international labor market, seeking to maximize their benefits. Each state’s labor export strategies differ; for instance, the Philippines and Thailand have been practicing zero recruitment fees with a minimum absconsion ratio of less than one percent, while Vietnam allows a fee of \$3,600, leading to actual payments averaging 660,000 yen, with absconders paying an average of 1,020,000 yen. This significantly reduces wages during the stay, effectively undermining minimum wage standards. “The race to the bottom” increases absconsion ratio at more than three percent among those states from high recruitment fee and brings various social costs of Japan. However, effective interventions for sending countries have been scarce. Before the reform act of the Immigration Control Act, the JITCO was responsible for the TITP operation, with inadequate supervision. The guarantee bond to prevent absconsion, previously considered a necessary evil by the government administrations of Japan, was declared illegal in 2009. The 2016 TITP Act required signing Memorandums of Cooperation (MOC) with sending countries. However, these memorandums, not binding domestic law, were largely ineffective. Hence, disparities in initial costs between the Philippines and Vietnam remained unchanged. The Economic Partnership Agreement scheme of nurses and care workers from Vietnam, the Philippines and Indoneisa exercise zero recruitment fee since 2008, in which absconsion has never been an issue. Therefore, systemic revisions of TITP are required before individual accountability of absconsions.

Japaneseness in the Labor Market for Locally Employed Workers: The New Transnational Employment System in Japanese Corporations

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The offshoring by Japanese corporations triggered the transnational flow of Japanese workers to Asian countries in the 1990s. In the first stage, these corporations relocated company-specific expatriates through the internal labor market. Later, they developed the transnational labor market for “Japanese locally employed workers”, who moved individually and were hired directly by Japanese corporations in the destination countries. Does this transnational labor market deconstruct the boundary of nation-states and release migrant workers from national norms of working? This paper examines the national/transnational framework of employment based on an empirical study of Japanese locally employed workers in Shanghai since the 2000s. First, the paper elucidates the historical background to the development of this transnational labor market. Responding to the offshoring of Japanese corporations, staffing agencies built the external labor market outside of Japan. If the corporations aimed to reduce labor costs and localize their management, they should have employed local workers or at least long-term Japanese residents. The expansion of the transnational labor market, however, introduced short-term Japanese migrants who are unfamiliar with the local language and culture. Second, the paper explains the gap to indicate the reason that the Japanese transnational corporations employed such short-term Japanese migrant workers. Compared to the company-specific expatriates who internalize specific skills and customs in each company, the locally employed workers are expected to be familiar with the national norms and customary ways of working. The labor market was expanded transnationally in the space but functions to maintain the national working environment outside Japan. This paper concludes that the transnational labor market for locally employed workers maintains national practices of working and suggests that the transnational flow of workers probably reinforces the boundary of nation-states.

The Effect of Gender Differences in Fields of Study on Precarious Youth Employment: Comparing University-Educated Non-Regular Employees in Japan and South Korea

Hansol LEE

This study investigates how gender differences in field choices influence gender disparities in employment types, focusing on Japanese and South Korean graduates' first jobs. Although gender inequalities in higher education have been significantly narrowed in Japan and South Korea, females still encounter a greater risk of non-regular employment than their male counterparts. Using two nationally representative samples, the Social Stratification and Social Mobility Survey (SSM) and the Korean Labor and Income Panel Study (KLIPS), this study examines whether female overrepresentation in the humanities is responsible for their high non-regular employment risks. The findings suggest that Japanese females are likely to hold non-regular employment positions in their first workplace because of their overrepresentation in the humanities. In contrast, South Korean females are not overrepresented among humanities degree holders. In addition, their field choices do not explain their high non-regular employment rates. This study concludes with practical suggestions for achieving gender parity in both countries. First, in Japan, parents and teachers should provide appropriate guidance to female high school students to help them gain a clear understanding of their aptitudes. Second, in South Korea, social policies and legal regulations should be introduced to alleviate the disadvantages females encounter in the labor market.

Life Strategies of Chinese Rural Women Experiencing the Educational Immigration, *Peidu*

Yi ZHENG

In China, the phenomenon of *Peidu* has been steadily increasing. In this study, *Peidu* refers to the phenomenon wherein adults from rural families relocate to urban areas with their children to secure their access to better educational opportunities. Previous research has predominantly concentrated on comprehending educational migration to developed countries by middle-class mothers. However, there is also *Peidu*, which refers educational migration within the Chinese domestic context, particularly by individuals lacking sufficient social, cultural, and economic capital, such as rural mothers. In particular, there has been a dearth of comprehensive analysis regarding how *Peidu* specifically impacts the roles of women in rural China. Therefore, this study aims to shine a spotlight on mothers involved in *Peidu* in China and address two key questions: (1) Under what circumstances do mothers involved in *Peidu* experience empowerment or disempowerment? (2) Does *Peidu* reinforce traditional gender roles, or does it provide an opportunity for women to break free from subordinate gender roles in their new marital environments?

Motherhood in the New Middle Class During the Educational Period of Their Children: Women in Shanghai and Nanjing

Zi Xuan ZHANG

Due to the feminist movement, increasing numbers of women have become aware of domestic gender inequality issues and the strength of patriarchy. But, as some scholars have critically observed, by overemphasizing the domination of patriarchy, mothers are portrayed as helpless, passive victims.

In China, women's issues have received more attention in recent years and there is a growing interest in motherhood. However, these researchers have also focused on the anxiety associated with being a mother and analyzed the reasons for this anxiety. As a result, mothers tend to be criticized and excluded by other women.

However, there is active resistance among mothers and some recent Japanese research has succeeded in analyzing mothers' resistance. On the other hand, it is still difficult to ascertain what kind of resistance Chinese mothers have engaged in and the value of motherhood. Based on this question, this paper aims to elucidate the active side of motherhood and apply the ethics of care theory in order to discuss the value of motherhood.

This paper uses participant observation and interview surveys as its methods and has selected the new middle-class mothers whose children are currently enrolled in education as its target since these women are known to be the most anxious mothers in China.

As a result, new middle-class Chinese mothers experience anxiety during motherhood since considerable time and energy is consumed by accompanying their children and they also have to deal with the conflicts between them and their children. However, based on the ethics of care theory, they are able to deepen their awareness of their own identity and discover how to respond not only to the children's but also their own needs through practicing motherhood.

Disparities in Education Returns for Chinese Migrant Workers Due to the Household Registration System: A Perspective on Regional Division

Guangyu LIANG

Since the Reform and Opening-Up, significant changes have occurred in the factors influencing the status attainment of Chinese workers. Ascriptive factors such as social class became less influential in determining social status, while the importance of achievement-oriented factors like performance and capability increased. Nevertheless, structural factors still have a major influence on individuals' status attainment, such as the hukou system, which divides people into different groups according to where their household is registered. The discriminatory household registration system contributes to the urban-rural divide (URD), which denotes that urban workers enjoy advantages over rural migrant workers in aspects such as education, healthcare, and social security, leading to them having a higher socioeconomic status (SES). Furthermore, it is pointed out that the URD weakened the socio-economic status returns that education levels bring to rural migrant workers. With the recent reform of the hukou system, the nature of the urban-rural divide has evolved, giving rise to a regional division characterized by distinctions between locals and migrants.

Therefore, from the perspective of regional division, this study utilizes data from CGSS2017 and employs multiple linear regression to investigate whether the regional division influences the educational return. It was found that the SES of urban migrant workers is still higher than that of rural migrant workers and there is no significant socio-economic status difference observed between urban local workers and urban migrant workers. Comparatively, urban migrant workers exhibit higher educational returns than rural migrant workers. There is no significant difference in educational returns between urban migrant workers and urban local workers. The influence of URD persists in the status attainment of Chinese workers, and the effects of regional division are not confirmed.

Key words: urban-rural division; regional division; rural migrant worker; socioeconomic status; educational return