

## Abstracts

### Designing Policy Evaluations in Public Organizations

**Kuniaki Tanabe** (University of Tokyo)

Policy evaluations are used in management of public organizations where theories of public administration and social sciences conflict. Accordingly, evaluators must design a system that reconciles these two approaches. The Japanese system of policy evaluation system is characterized by enforced self-evaluations emphasizing applied social science.

### Policy Evaluation in Labour Economics: The Structural Estimation Method and the Natural Experiment Approach

**Susumu Imai** (Pennsylvania State University), **Toshihide Arimura** (Sophia University), **Higashi Katayama** (Pennsylvania State University)

We discuss recent developments in two main schools of thought on policy evaluation in empirical labour economics—structural estimation and natural experiments. The structural estimation approach is based on a total solution in a tightly parameterized dynamic rational choice model of individuals. After estimation, one can artificially conduct counterfactual policy experiments through simulation of the model under estimated parameters, and new values of policy parameters representing policy change. The natural experiment approach exploits a quasi-experimental situation in which policy-induced change in individual behavior is orthogonal to the individual observed and unobserved heterogeneities. After a critical review of the literature, we conclude that the promising direction in future empirical work may lie in a synthesis of the two approaches, with emphasis on general equilibrium effects.

### The Effect of Unemployment Benefits to the New Job Condition :Programme Evaluation by Average Treatment Effect

**Yasushi Ohkusa** (Osaka University)

We evaluated the effect of unemployment benefits using Nonparametric Propensity Score Matching Method with motivation for job seeking or re-employment applied as parameters. Endogeneity of benefits was also taken into consideration. In comparisons of recipients and non-recipients of unemployment benefits, re-employment under unfavorable wage levels and firm was statistically significant for recipients, although they also enjoyed improved employment in terms of positions and residential transfers compared to non-recipients. While differences in occupation types in both groups were statistically insignificant, significance in statistics was seen for beneficiaries in obtaining employment in their preferred industries.

### Representation, Accountability and Policy Effectiveness: Evaluating the Policy-making Process of the 1999 Revision of Worker Dispatching Law

**Mari Miura** (University of Tokyo)

How should we evaluate policy-making processes? This article proposes that such evaluations should be based on two democratic principles: representation and accountability. Moreover, we need to ask how to achieve compatibility between democratic practices and policy effectiveness. This article examines the policy-making process behind the revision of the Worker Dispatching Law in 1999. The process was unusual in that the deregulation subcommittee bypassed the Ministry of Labour's advisory council in setting the legislative agenda. I compare the subcommittee's top-down policy-making process with the consensus-oriented processes favored by advisory councils using three criteria: representation, accountability and policy effectiveness.