

## Abstracts

### The Never Ending Ice-age: A Review of Cohort Effects in Japan

**Souichi Ohta** (Keio University), **Yuji Genda** (University of Tokyo) & **Ayako Kondo** (Columbia University)

Labour market conditions at graduation from school and the cohort size persistently affect subsequent wages, turnover and employment status of people who belong to the same cohort, which is defined by age, gender and educational background. These long-term effects have been known as “cohort effects” in the labour market. This paper surveys existing studies on the cohort effects, and then reviews recent findings that cover cohorts who graduated during the post-bubble recession. A high unemployment rate at graduation raises the probability of non-regular employment and joblessness and lowers earnings in subsequent years, especially for high school graduates. In addition to the vulnerability to business cycle fluctuations, the lack of opportunities for reevaluation and high mobility costs make it difficult for high school graduates to obtain a regular job after they fail to obtain one at graduation. To recover employment of the “ice age” generation, it is necessary to facilitate screening job applicants outside of the school-based hiring system in addition to public training programs.

### Lives of Hinoeuma (Fiery Horse) Generation: Evidence from the Statistics

**Hideo Akabayashi** (Keio University)

The superstition that says “women born in the year of “Hinoeuma (Fiery Horse)” are emotionally difficult to control” clearly made the fertility rate in years 1906 and 1966 sharply dropped in Japan. In this paper, we focus on the lives of “Hinoeuma generation” who were born in the unfortunate year and try to find what family background they had, and how they lived their adult life using the government statistics. We first review demographic studies regarding the reasons of the fertility drops in the Hinoeuma years, propose some theoretical hypotheses on how the superstition might have affected the later lives of the Hinoeuma children, and review the related studies. Then we use the government statistics, including the Census, the Vital Statistics, and the School Basic Survey, to investigate the family background, education, labour status, and marriage of the 1966 cohort, and also the marriage, labour, and health of the 1906 cohort. We find, among others, that the education quality received by the 1966 cohort appears to be higher than that of the other cohorts, their marriage rate is lower for both men and women, and the labour participation rate of the 1906 cohort is higher than the other cohorts. We conclude by arguing that research using birth year and months are extremely useful for research to evaluate the effects of public policies for which the eligibility is defined by the date of birth.

### Birthday, Test Scores and Educational Attainment

**Daiji Kawaguchi** (Hitotsubashi University) & **Hiroaki Mori** (Hitotsubashi University)

Students start schooling at different exact age due to a single cut-off date for their eligibility for schooling. Thus, students at different exact ages study in a classroom and relatively young student may suffer from their relative immaturity when a uniform test is given to students. The effect of exact age difference on students’ achievement may well disappear with age since the relative age differential becomes small compared with their actual age. However, if the handicap in early grade destructs self-confidence of relatively young students, the relative age effect could persist even in students’ later life. This paper reports substantial variation in

students' educational attainment by their relative age within a grade using micro-data of tests scores from TIMSS and PISA collected for Japan. In particular, the youngest children score 0.2-0.3 standard deviation lower than the oldest one in the same grade. In addition, the oldest students in a grade are 2.5 percentage points more likely to enroll in national or private junior-high schools than the youngest students, while the average attendance rate to these schools are around 5 percent. This is probably because older students perform better at the entrance examination to those special schools. Finally, the analysis of the large-scale Japanese labour force survey reveals that the relative age effects eventually translate into the difference in the final educational attainment. The relative age effect is robust and long-lasting.

Types of Occupational Carrier and the Effects on Employment Status of "the Baby Boom Generation"

**Ma Xin Xin** (Keio University)

The paper analyzes types of the occupational carrier and the effects on employment status of "the baby boom generation". The main conclusions are as follows. Firstly, types of the occupational carrier influence the selection of employment status before 60 years old. Specialist workers have higher probability to become self-employed worker or part time worker than generalist worker before 60 years old. The second, types of the occupational carrier also affect the employment status in 65 years old. Specialist workers have more expectations to become self-employed workers than generalist workers in 65 years old. These results show that occupational re-training and self-employment subsidiary are important policies to promote the labour participation of the baby boom generation.