

Introduction to Data and Resources Available at Statistics Bureau Japan, 9th to 11th January 2019, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

This symposium had 3 core objectives.

1. To publicise our pioneering efforts to set up, in Oxford, the first ever onsite facility to access Statistics Bureau data outside Japan. Professor Kan and Dr Hertog from the Department of Sociology have been negotiating this facility for over a year and we have now secured a preliminary approval for it to be hosted at the department from both the Statistics Bureau and the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford.
2. To showcase research carried out to date using the data that will be available through the onsite facility in Oxford with colleagues from the Statistics Bureau, Hitotsubashi University, Ochanomizu University, and from the Institute of Population and Social Security Research in Tokyo.
3. To bring together researchers from the UK, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and China who analyse the provision of unpaid work in different welfare regimes, with a particular focus on multigenerational households. To comment on each other's research and to prepare for publishing the presentations together as a special issue.

The symposium was organized in close collaboration with the European Research Council funded project Temporal Structures of Gender Inequalities in Asian and Western Welfare Regimes (GenTime) headed by PI Professor Man-Yee Kan at the University of Oxford.

The symposium attracted a good audience of researchers, interested in using data from the Japanese Statistics Bureau. Facilitating access and publicizing research utilising data collected by the Japanese Statistics Bureau outside Japan will have a large and long-lasting academic and real-world impact. The symposium has enabled us to reach a broad audience of researchers in academia, NGOs and government in the UK and beyond.

During the first day of the symposium, colleagues from the Japanese Statistics Bureau gave presentations describing the data that will be made available through the onsite facility to UK researchers. This created a unique opportunity for academics outside Japan, especially those in the UK, to learn about the available data, discuss collaborations, and plan future projects. Greater accessibility of the data will mean that it can be made use of beyond the field of Japanese studies across several disciplines. To give a few examples, the Japanese Labour Force Survey and Employment Status Survey are of interest to labour economists, the Population Census appeals to demographers, and the Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities interests sociologists, economists, and health researchers in the UK and beyond. We created ample opportunities for our attendees to interact with the presenters. We have already received a lot of expressions of interest to use the onsite facility to access data. This facility will still take some months to set up. We will build on the high level of interest to promote research of Japan in the UK once the facility is up and running.

During the second and the third days of the symposium, invited academics showcased their research looking at various aspects of gender inequality and how in east Asia and it is affected by multigenerational living arrangements. The attendees exchanged ideas and networked. The invitees included a full range of very junior (PhD students and postdocs) and very senior academics and we created ample opportunities for them to interact. This broadened the younger scholar's networks, potentially opening new career opportunities for them. We are now preparing to publish the collection papers presented at the event as a special issue in a peer-reviewed academic journal. We plan to also write up key findings of

the papers as non-technical summaries and publish them on the GenTime website in press releases, and in the form of op-eds in outlets like The Conversation once all the papers are updated and finalized based on feedback received during the event.

-Dr Ekaterina Hertog



Symposium Speakers