

workshop on

The Historical Evolution of Health, Wealth, and Inequality

2 Feb. 2016

10:00 – 18:15 @ conference room

Organized by Brain Circulation Program,
Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University

Program

(subject to change)

Morning Session

(each presentation has 50 minutes, followed by 10 minutes discussion)

10:00-11:00 **Chiaki MORIGUCHI** (IER, Hitotsubashi University)

"Adopted Children and Stepchildren in Twentieth-Century America"

In the U.S., a substantial number of children live with stepparents or adoptive parents. Empirical research has found strong and robust correlations between family structure and child outcomes in modern data, indicating that family structure matters for the welfare of children. Although children's living arrangements varied widely across households also in historical times, few empirical studies have examined how non-biological children fared compared to biological children in the past.

In this study, I use the public use samples of U.S. federal census microdata (IPUMS) in 1880-1930 and 2000 to compare educational outcomes of adopted, step, and biological children. I find that, in 1880-1930, (1) for both whites and blacks, step households were negatively selected from the population of married two-parent households, while adoptive households were not; (2) both step children and adopted children had significantly lower educational outcomes than biological children after controlling for household characteristics; and (3) such educational disadvantages were due largely, but not entirely, to parental selection into adoptive and step households. By 2000, the earlier educational disadvantages of non-biological children were greatly reduced, or even reversed in some measures. My findings are consistent with a great transformation of adoption practices and stepfamily formation over the twentieth century.

11:15-12:15 **Anthony WRAY** (HIAS, Hitotsubashi University)

"Childhood Health and Long-Run Economic Opportunity in Victorian England" (with Krzysztof Karbownik)

We study the long-run effects of childhood health deficiencies on occupational outcomes for males, in addition to marital status for both genders, using a sibling-fixed-effects identification strategy. We construct a longitudinal data set consisting of inpatient admission registers, from two hospital in London, England,

during the late-nineteenth century, linked to census and marriage records. Health deficiencies during childhood, proxied by the in-hospital mortality rate of the admitted condition, decrease the occupational log wage, and increase the probability of downward mobility relative to one's father, for male patients in comparison to their brothers. The effect of health deficiencies offsets 30 percent of the effect of an increase in father's occupational log wage on own occupational log wage. Female patients were less likely to be married as adults in comparison to their sisters, but there is no evidence of a marriage penalty for males.

Lunch and (a nap?) break

Evening Session

(each presentation has 60 minutes, followed by 15 minutes discussion)

15:30-16:45 **Gilles POSTEL-VINAY** (L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales)

"After the Rentier Society. The Great Shocks of the Twentieth Century Reconsidered" (with Thomas Piketty and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal)

It is now common to attribute the relatively low levels of income and wealth inequality observed in the 1950s and 1960s to a combination of the negative shocks of the first half of the 20th century and increased fiscal pressure on capital. It is also accepted that the evolution of income concentration largely depends on the evolution the distribution of wealth, but good long term individual data sets on wealth inequality are, to say the least, hard to come by. Thus inferences about the relative importance of different shocks to changes in inequality are either made by extrapolating short term changes (e.g. the Reagan tax shock) or using turning points for aggregate series. But neither of these approaches are good substitutes for direct evidence on the evolution of individual wealth portfolios over time. Relying on data on the wealth at death of Parisians from 1807 to 1952, the paper aims to disentangle the contribution of each of these crises and of the fiscal responses that followed them.

17:00-18:15 **Akiko SUWA-EISENMANN** (Paris School of Economics)

"Intergenerational wealth mobility in France, 19th and 20th century" (with Jérôme Bourdieu, Lionel Kesztenbaum and Gilles Postel-Vinay)

This paper examines intergenerational wealth mobility between fathers and children in France between 1848 and 1960. Considering wealth mobility entails some striking differences with income mobility. Wealth mobility cannot be summarized by a unique indicator over the whole distribution such as the Intergenerational Elasticity (IGE). Moreover, structural changes must be also taken into account, in particular, that a rising share of the population leaves no estate at death.

Workshop dinner (18:30-20:30)

any question will be welcome by the organizer at kambayas@ier.hit-u.ac.jp