

## Abstracts

### Special Topic I

#### **A Comparative Analysis of the Consolidation of the Party System in East-Central European Countries: Focusing on the Positioning of Major Political Parties**

Tadayuki Hayashi (Hokkaido University)

The purpose of this article is to examine the factors which influenced the consolidation of political party systems in post-communist East-Central European countries, namely, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. By comparing the mutual positioning of the major political parties of each country, the article concludes that the ability and policy choices of the post-communist party of each country, as well as the policy positioning of the parties which had consolidated their status as a major party in the early stage of the transformation process, were the determinant factors in the formation of the political party system.

#### **Discussion on Popularization of ‘Housewives’ in the Former Soviet Union Countries**

Noriko Igarashi (Tenri University)

This paper intends to clarify gender issues in the post-socialist republics of the former Soviet Union by comparing the data on Uzbekistan, Georgia, Russia, and Tatarstan. According to Sechiyama, the problem is not just that women are dominated or suppressed by men, but, rather, that there is no freedom for women to choose their

roles in society. According to Sechiyama, ‘Patriarchy’ is the justifiable approval itself of gender-based roles in the society. My longitudinal research study, conducted in those regions during 1997-2005, results in the analysis of women’s awareness of ‘labor’ and ‘family’. In conclusion, a comprehensive summary and predictions about future orientation are given.

#### **On the importance of comparative studies: An economist’s point of view**

Akira Uegaki (Seinan Gakuin University)

Although it is not self-evident in economics that the comparative method is useful for social studies, the author insists that it would produce fruitful results, at least, in the studies of transition economies. According to the author’s method, the comparative method can be adopted in a context in which a collision between market forces on the one hand and political elements or historical/social conditions on the other hand would take place. For example, the privatization process in Eastern Europe can be analyzed from the short-term viewpoint of the political process and also from the long-term viewpoint of “backwardness.” A comparative study of relatively narrow regions, as done by Emmanuel Todd, would also yield insightful knowledge about the transition. The author’s method is interdisciplinary and open to be discussed by a wide circle of scientific researchers.

## Special Topic II

### **Growth and Employment in India: The Impact of Globalization on Employment in the Indian Manufacturing Sector**

Takahiro Sato (Kobe University)

India seems to be suffering from "jobless growth." Using a state-level panel data set on the Indian manufacturing sector for the period from 1979 to 2003, in this paper, the labor demand function is estimated in order to examine the current issue of "jobless growth" in India. The study finds the following evidence of the impact of globalization with more flexible labor markets on employment in the Indian manufacturing sector: first, globalization with more flexible labor markets can stimulate labor demand directly in some model specifications; and second, it makes employment adjust more sensitively to wage fluctuation and more sluggishly to output change.

### **Changes in Employment Structure in Russia: 2000-2006**

Tsuyoshi Ishikawa (Shimane University)

This paper provides an overview of the Russian employment structure using employment and GDP data for 2000-2006. The Russian employment structure is characterized by the dynamics of the following three sectors: "manufacturing," "agriculture and forestry," and "wholesale and retail trade and repair." An increase in the share of service sectors regarding the number of employed individuals and a rise in labor productivity in non-service sectors are also observed.

## Articles

### **Transformation of Workers' Occupations in Russia: An Occupational Classification as a Soviet Legacy**

Norio Horie (University of Toyama)

An occupational classification is a language that should be commonly used in the world of work. This paper focuses on the analysis of the birth, development, and legacy of a Soviet occupational classification called "Russian Classification of Laborers' and Employees' Occupations and Wage Grades." The paper gives an outlook of its history and the role of the classification and analyzes how it works in a present firm in Russia. The analysis is linked to a discussion about possible future changes in human resource management in Russia.

### **The Determinants of Corruption in Transition Economies: An Empirical Assessment**

Taku Suzuki (Hitotsubashi University) and Ichiro Iwasaki (Hitotsubashi University)

Using a large panel data of world nations in 1996-2006, the level and determinants of corruption in transition economies are empirically examined. Our empirical evidence suggests that the corruption level in the post-communist countries is relatively higher than that in other regions with the same economic development level. It was also found that, controlling the other potential determinants, the progress of structural reforms consisting of the marketization policy, rule of law, and democratization have significantly positive impacts on corruption control in transition economies. In this sense, the role of government is of great importance in improving a country's fairness and the transparency of an economic system under transformation.

## **Research Note**

### **Waste Management Policies and Estimation of the Social Costs**

Hideo Koide (Seinan Gakuin University)

This essay firstly shows a mathematical structure of a waste management and recycling model implicitly constructed by R. C. Porter in his book titled “The Economics of Waste,” then introduces

some numerical results of external costs or social costs due to waste management processes mainly estimated by a European research network named ExternE (an abbreviation for “Externalities of Energy”), and finally offers some remarks to apply the theoretical and empirical implications effectively to the decision-making process in real economies.