

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social sciences)



Title of Project : Comprehensive Study of Changes in the Life Course and Cumulative Advantages and Disadvantages among the Youth in Contemporary Japan

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Research Area : Social Sciences

Keyword : sociology, class, stratification, social mobility

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Socio-economic environment surrounding the youth has changed substantially since the 1990s. Non-typical employment, low wage, and long working hours among the youth have been recognized as social issues, and the delay in marriage and the increasing non-marriage rate are believed to affect the low-birth rate. These changes regarding employment and family formation among the youth are related to the changes in their attitudes and opinions.

This research aims to continue conducting panel survey in order to understand the changes in education, employment, family, health, and attitudes among the young people. Multiple aspects of the changes in the life course will be examined from the theoretical framework of the cumulative advantages and disadvantages. In addition, study will make comparison with the Korean and Taiwanese societies in order to highlight the differences and similarities in the process of accumulation in Japan.

【Research Methods】

This study plans to conduct three panel surveys, following up the youth and the middle-aged, as well as high school graduates who left school in March 2004. The study has already been following up every year the youth aged 20 to 34 in 2007 and the middle-aged of 35 to 40 in 2007. Similarly, a sample of students who graduated from high schools in four prefectures in Japan in 2004 is followed up for six years after the graduation. This study plans to follow up these three groups for the next five years.

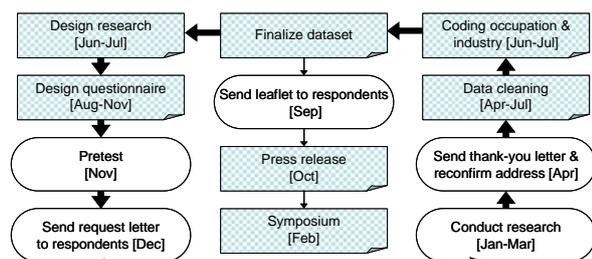


Figure 1 The Process of Panel Survey

Figure 1 shows the process of preparing and

conducting the panel surveys. Square boxes indicate the activities of the researchers, and oval boxes indicate contact to the respondents. Large arrows imply the flow of the survey preparation and execution, while small arrows imply the analysis and dissemination of research outcomes.

The Center for Social Research and Data Archives of the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, provides the institutional home for planning and conducting the panel surveys. The research project is composed of both the committee planning and conducting surveys and the committee analyzing the survey.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

The project has already accumulated the panel surveys, but the number of respondents who experienced important life events (such as job change, marriage, and child birth) is still limited. Therefore, the continuation of the surveys will allow researchers to examine whether the disadvantages at the early stage of life will accumulate or not and to identify what kind of factors are responsible for breaking the vicious cycle.

This study will contribute to advancing the frontiers of the life course study and the study of inequality and providing policy implications.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Hiroshi Ishida and David Slater (eds.) 2009, *Social Class in Contemporary Japan*, (London: Routledge)

Hiroshi Ishida, Satoshi Miwa, and Akane Murakami, 2009, "Life Styles and Attitudes as Reflected in the Japanese Life Course Panel Survey 2008," *Chuo Chosaho* 616, pp.1-7.

【Term of Project】 FY2010-2014

【Budget Allocation】 153,900 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://ssjda.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/panel/>