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Sunday, May 30 (10am-12:00 noon (JST))

Presentation Format: Online and On-site at Shizuoka University of Art and Culture

CHAIR AND MODERATOR

Dr. Deborah MILLY

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

TECHNICAL OPERATOR

Dr. SAEKI Yasutaka (Osaka University)

1. Chair: Opening Remarks and Introduction of Presenters
2. Presentations: 20 mins. each + Q&A: 5 mins
3. Integrated Summary and General Discussion: Remaining time

◆◆◆PRESENTERS◆◆◆

Social Interaction, Community Involvements and Satisfaction with Place of Residence among Foreign Residents in Nagoya, Japan

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Keywords

subjective well-being, immigrants, social interaction, community participation, life satisfaction

Abstract

To what extent are migrants satisfied with their quality of life after moving to a new country? Scholars of immigration are taking a growing interest in the subjective well-being of international migrants (Olgati et al. 2013; Hendriks 2015). Subjective well-being refers to how a person evaluates their life situation. Several studies stress the importance of a person's happiness and life satisfaction on their overall well-being because it improves their stress management and functioning in society (Diener et al. 1998). For migrants, subjective well-being is especially important because it can increase their sense of belonging to their host society (Amit and Bar-Lev 2015). Previous studies have examined the subjective well-being of migrants in ethnically heterogeneous societies, such as Israel, Germany and the United States. However, no researchers have used this perspective in culturally homogeneous countries. It is possible that the factors affecting migrants in more ethnically and culturally homogeneous countries may manifest themselves differently from those in more multiethnic societies.

In this study, we build on the work of scholars examining how social context affects subjective well-being of migrants (Völker et al. 2008; Arpino and Valk 2018). We focus on the satisfaction of individual foreign residents with life in their place of residence. We do so by using the comparatively ethnically homogeneous context of Japan. Because of its historic isolation and hesitancy to open largely to immigration, Japan provides a suitable case for examining the subjective well-being of migrants in a non-Western society with low levels of immigration and high levels of ethnic and cultural homogeneity. Japan's rapidly aging population, combined with a low birthrate, have forced it to be more open to immigration. Populations of both low and high skilled migrants are increasing in what has historically been a society with few foreigners (Oishi 2020). Yet despite this opening, little information is available on perceptions of quality of life in Japan among its growing foreign population.

Based on Helliwell and Putnam's (2004) work on the relationship between social context and subjective well-being, we test two hypotheses: first, that social contact between foreign residents and Japanese should lead to greater satisfaction with place of residence, and second, that community involvement should also have a similar effect. To do so, we analyze a sample of 1490 foreign residents from the City of Nagoya's most recent foreign resident survey from 2015.

Using ordered probit regression analyses, we estimate the effects of social interaction and community involvement on satisfaction with life in Nagoya. The results suggest mixed support for the argument that

social interaction between migrants and natives can improve subjective well-being. Consistent with our first hypothesis, respondents who had greater contact with Japanese neighbors and friends showed higher levels of satisfaction with life in Nagoya. The effects of community involvement, however, were more complicated. While some types of community involvement were positively related to satisfaction with life in Nagoya, others were not. Overall, however, our analysis supports previous research on social interaction and subjective well-being. Even in a culturally homogeneous society, it seems, interaction between migrants and locals increases a person's satisfaction with where they live. While this is only an initial step in understanding what factors affect the subject well-being of migrants in Japan, it is important given its intention to further open its doors to immigration. For policymakers in Japan, our findings suggest that local governments should increase opportunities for interaction between Japanese citizens and migrants.

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On the Impact of Contact: How does occupational intergroup contact impact the attitudes and behavior of Japanese employees?

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Keywords

Intergroup Contact Hypothesis, acculturation, technical intern trainees, multicultural workplaces

Abstract

Japan is in the midst of a transition to a more openly multicultural society. In particular, changes are becoming noticeable in the workplace. With the Revised Immigration Act that came into effect in April 2019, the Japanese government officially opened the door to unskilled foreign labor (MOFJ, 2019). The new law was partly an acknowledgement of the need to attract overseas workers to compensate for the shrinking Japanese working-age population, and partly an official attempt to legitimize the unskilled worker routes that had unofficially developed through operation of the Technical Intern Trainee program, launched in 1993. The Specified Skill Worker status newly launched with the Revised Immigration Act offers applicants the opportunity to stay in Japan for up to ten years, with the possibility for workers in selected industries to apply for permanent residency. While applicant numbers have as yet fallen short of initial government projections, they are gradually increasing, and with high demand for labor in many industries, foreign workers are set to become a long-term and increasingly prominent presence in the Japanese workplace.

Against this backdrop of social change, this study examines the state of intercultural interaction in the Japanese workplace. As the fastest-growing group of foreign workers in Japan and with the future possibility of permanent residency, the study focuses on workplaces employing technical intern trainees (*gino jissusei*). A thematic review of literature from 2010-2020 on technical intern trainees conducted by the author found that there has been a predominance of research on trainees working in rural areas; that case studies have concentrated on the agriculture and care industries; and that there is still relatively little primary data collected directly from the trainees. Regarding the employment situation of the trainees, much of the research reviewed focused on structural issues inherent to the technical intern trainee program (including working conditions and labor law infringements) and language-related issues, which are clearly urgent issues requiring effective solutions. However, there has consequently been relatively little researcher attention paid to workplace relations between Japanese employees and the trainees, nor to how intercultural contact in the workplaces is impacting attitudes toward migrants. This research aims to address this gap in knowledge.

The goal of this research project is to investigate how attitudes and behavior of Japanese employees toward foreign residents is affected by intercultural contact in the workplace. With increasing numbers of unskilled foreign workers in Japan, more workplaces are experiencing changes in the composition of their employees: companies previously employing all Japanese workers are now facing the need to address issues accompanying the employment of workers from different cultural backgrounds. In other words, minority employee groups are emerging in such workplaces, representing a major cultural change for both company management and their employees. This study proposes a two-pronged theoretical framework to assess the connection between multicultural work environments employing technical intern trainees and the attitudes and behavior of Japanese employees toward the migrant population. Firstly, Allport's (1954) Intergroup Contact Hypothesis will be used as the theoretical foundation to define the various types of intercultural work sites being studied. Allport's hypothesis proposes that if certain conditions are met when majority and minority groups interact, there is a possibility of reduction of prejudice toward members of the other group (the four conditions are: the groups have equal status, are supported by authority, have common goals and need to cooperate)(Allport, 1954). In the multitude of studies conducted to the present day on the Intergroup Contact Hypothesis, it has been largely verified, extended, and modified (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; Vezzali & Stathi, 2017). In this study, it is expected that various workplaces will meet Allport's conditions to varying degrees, and some not at all. The aim is to investigate what kind of impact the fulfillment of some or all of the conditions has on the attitudes of Japanese employees toward foreign residents. In-depth, semi-structured interviews will be used to investigate the attitudes and behavior of Japanese employees. In addition, questionnaire surveys will be developed based on the interactive acculturation model (IAM) proposed by Bourhis et al (1997), which asserts that host society members are also impacted by intercultural contact.

Intercultural interaction is a two-way process with two sets of participants. While much immigration research focuses on immigrants' adaption to and integration into the host society, it is important to note that the shift to a more multicultural society may be just as much a 'culture shock' to the domestic population. The first point of contact with foreign workers will often be the workplace. It is hoped that this research will contribute to the identification of successful workplace practices that help to facilitate a smooth transition for both the Japanese and the foreign population in this period of social change.

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Global Holdout or Regional Norm? An Analytical Reframing of Japan's Restrictive Dual Citizenship Policy

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Keywords

dual citizenship; Japan; migrant political incorporation; policy convergence; Qualitative Comparative Analysis

Abstract

Three-quarters (75%) of all countries endorse, both actively and tacitly, the transnationality of its citizens by allowing dual citizenship (Bauböck, 2003; Vink et al., 2019). Dual citizenship's recognized benefits (i.e., increased human capital) are shown to not only outweigh the hypothetical drawbacks (i.e., split loyalties) (Faist, 2001), but its practical application can encourage labor importation and migrant incorporation, as migrants are 68% more likely to choose a destination country that allows dual citizenship (Alarian and Goodman, 2017).

However, Japan continues to resist the global policy convergence towards, and norm internationalization of, dual citizenship acceptance (Kondo, 2016). While analytical framings of Japan's restrictive migration regime have been limited by narrow comparative scopes focused on Western democracies (Pak, 2004), this paper argues that the interplay of conditions undergirding Japan's dual citizenship policymaking exhibit more similarities with other Asian migrant-receiving countries and, therefore, warrant an analytical reframing. Seeking to fill apparent gaps in the literature, I develop a theoretical Six Conditions Model (SCM) that explains the policies of both convergence and divergence (dual citizenship-allowing *and* restricting countries) by conceptualizing and modeling how six input conditions—relationships between a state and its (1) history, (2) identity, (3) region, (4) diaspora, (5) migrants and (6) democracy—drive dual citizenship policy outcomes. Applying the SCM across forty cases in order to identify and classify primary influencing conditions, I also propose four typologies of dual citizenship policy regimes: early adopters, recent reformers, diaspora incorporators, and holdouts. Employing a Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) methodology, QCA truth table results demonstrate a significant overlap among combinations of these conditions and the “restricting dual citizenship” outcome. The paper's analytical reframing is justified by the findings that Japan is archetypal of the holdout typology as prospects for dual citizenship allowance are most hindered by negative relationships with history and identity, which are characteristics shared more by Asian and less-democratic cases than by Western democracies. Furthermore, I argue that the SCM explains how catalyzing conditions in the fellow migrant-receiving Asian democracies of South Korea and Taiwan have led to liberalized dual citizenship policies, whereas in Japan such conditions have not yet been met. Although it appears that Japan may be a global holdout, its status as a regional norm remains questionable given that no other Asian country is simultaneously *as democratic* and *as restricting* of dual citizenship. A focus on dual citizenship intolerance in liberal democratic Japan raises important questions regarding migrant incorporation norms in Asia, where intra-regional migration has grown to rival that of Europe, despite a regional hesitancy towards recognizing migrants as potential future citizens.

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