A Quantitative Analysis of the Economic Situation of Those Who Have Undergone Divorce

Background
Tohoku University Global COE: Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization
With law/politics researchers, 2008-2012
http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/coe/

Micro-Macro Problem
Macro-level justice = Impact on total system
= norm / law controlling actors

Question
Gender equality
Look before leap
Equitable divorce

Japanese divorce system
Traditional: Unilateral no-ground
Modern: Bilateral no-ground + Unilateral ground-based

Debate for divorce reform
Currently:
90% .... by mutual consent (no legal intervention)
9% .... mediated by court
1% .... judgement by court
→ anti-liberal, equity-oriented debates

Equitable Divorce
• Restore any change
• Otherwise, monetary transfer
• Fifty-fifty rule

Typical cases
• Earning capacity due to specialization
• Burden to bring up legitimate child
• Disease caused/worsened by marital life
(Motozawa 1998)
→ Coverage by these cases?

Trend in marital status
Population Census 1950-2005,
Women aged 25-49

Decomposition of gender inequality

Two sub-questions
Proportion covered by equitable divorce (= E/U)
SQ1: Contribution of divorced people to overall gender inequality (= D/U)
SQ2: Impact of equity-oriented reform on post-divorce gender gap (= E/D)

National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ)
By Japan Society of Family Sociology
★ Detailed information on kinship and life events
★ Huge number: 473, 494, 463 divorced

Annual Household Income
NFRJ03: on page 5/25
1. 0円未満 2. 100万円未満 3. 100-199万円台 4. 200-399万円台 5. 400-499万円台
6. 500-599万円台 7. 800-899万円台 8. 1000-1099万円台 9. 1100-1199万円台
10. 1200万円以上

NFRJ08: on page 23/24
1. 0円未満 2. 500-599万円台 3. 1000-1099万円台 4. 1100-1199万円台
5. 1200万円以上

H.Inc. in the previous year
4,000,000 5,000,000
Midpoint = 4,500,000
Equivalent Household Income

Marital history and EHI: NFRJ08

Summary

Marital History and Gender Gap

Regression (divorced)

In Table 7

Model 1
Direct negative effect of "female" after controlling age composition
0.683 - 0.748 - 0.819

Model 2
The effect is not significant
0.890 - 0.995 - 1.110

Result (Model 2)

Factors of post-divorce gap

Conclusion

Findings

• Female EHI is 10% lower than male
• Mainly caused by widowed/divorced
• 4 factors of gender gap after divorce

Validate

- Employment/child
- Coverage of the reform (E/D)
- Remarriage effect for women
- Impact on macro-level inequality (D/U)