

Abstracts (要 旨)

Organizational Form and Political Function of Public Inquiries in Japan 1990 – 2009

Yosuke TEZUKA

Public inquiries may come into existence in the aftermath of negative events such as accidents, policy failures and scandals. This paper explains organizational forms of these inquiries in terms of externality to a department which is responsible for such an event and discusses how government or ministers choose members of inquires. Around 1990s, public inquires began to be composed of internal and external members or only external members in regard to scandals, until then, only internal members. Later, in Abe and Fukuda administrations, some inquiries were set up under the Cabinet Office or the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and others got investigators from former public prosecutors. As a result, we found that public inquiries were used for electoral politics or attack to labor unions of public sector.

Key Words : scandals, public inquiry, former public prosecutor

‘Undergraduate’ education in the ‘knowledge-based society’ : A critical consideration

Kouichi WATANABE

It has been one of the crucial issues on higher education policy in Japan how the *undergraduate* education should be established in the *knowledge-based society*. According to recent reports by Councils for Education, undergraduate curriculum should be adapted to the human resource development in response to the expectations of society. However, it is doubtful whether that kind of argument is appropriate for the culture and education policy. Thus, in preparation for further discussion I here study the origins of and correlation between the two concepts, i. e. ‘undergraduate’ and ‘knowledge-based society’.

Key Words : undergraduate education, knowledge-based society, higher education policy, history of ideas

Is there a turning point of internationalization of Chinese Renminbi with the changing balance of payments ?

Kazuo TORITANI

The purpose of this paper is to put in place historically and theoretically development of internationalization of Chinese renminbi and renminbi-denominated off-shore market in Hong Kong, initiating from June 2009, while revising the author’s previously published papers. In the paper, relation among CNY, NDF and CNH, named as ‘One Country, Two Systems, Three Currencies’, should be taken up in terms of exchange arbitrage. Besides, it should be highlighted that renminbi-denominated trade has been conducted purposefully in ‘misinvoiced’

manner for speculative exchange arbitrage in the foreign exchange market surrounded with strongly prevailing prospect for appreciating renminbi exchange rate further in future. The balance of payments of China, however, turned away, since the second half of 2011, from one-way 'surplus' as experienced in previous years. With this trend, it becomes difficult to keep policy of making renminbi appreciating straightforwardly. This makes Chinese policy makers set forth new measures for internationalization of renminbi with financial deregulation. On the other, there should be deeply concerning over renminbi facing possible crisis, due to international short-term capital transaction for arbitrage.

Key Words : Chinese renminbi, internationalization, off-shore, Hong Kong

Immortality and Boredom

Naomi TSURUTA

In 'The Makropulos case: reflections on tedium of immortality', Bernard Williams argued as follows: if death is a misfortune and a longer life is better than a shorter life, then death at any time is evil, and it is better to live than die. Then, it would be not only always better to live but also better to live always, that is, never die.

However, an endless life must be meaningless, and we have no reason to want to live till eternity, because eternal life must be a life which is intolerably boring.

According to Williams, a person has a certain character and his/her own conception of life and integrity, which is important for us as persons.

In contrast, Derek Parfit suggests that personal identity in itself is not important. According to his 'reductionism' account, what really matters to us is not personal identity, but psychological connectedness or continuity (relation R) over time.

In this paper, I will examine Williams' supposition that a person must have a fixed character, and then criticize his explanation that an immortal person necessary fails to boredom.

Next, I will explain Parfit's theory of personal identity and point out that what matters in my survival is not identity over time, but relation R.

Finally, I will conclude that Parfit's concept of person is more plausible to apply to our real human lives.

Key Words : Bernard Williams, Derek Parfit, immortality, personal identity

Operation and Improvement of the Lecture Cancellation Notification System

Kensuke MIYASHITA

It is impossible to manage our society without information infrastructure. All the more for that, the institutions of higher education in which human resources to support such society are nurtured need to make efficient use of information infrastructure. The information systems of Kyoto Women's University have been established in the year of 2000, and information technology has been introduced into its office and educational affairs. Among them, the author has developed and deployed the notification system of lecture cancellation last year.

In this paper, the author describes knowledge from 1-year operation of the system and some improvements which have been realized during the operation.

Key Words : education support, WWW application services, operation and utilization

Comparative Case Study of Japanese Entertainment Show Business The Takarazuka Revue and AKB48

Kumiko NISHIO

The Takarazuka Revue is based in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture. Its forerunner was created in 1913 by Ichiro Kobayashi, the founder of Hankyu Corp., and gave its first public performance in 1914. Each year, the revue selects 40 girls from across Japan to train at its Takarazuka Music School. It currently has about 400 members.

AKB48 is a popular idol group launched in 2005 by Yasushi Akimoto, a songwriter and the producer of the group. AKB48's performing theater is in Tokyo's Akihabara area. There is also an NMB48 group in Osaka and other sister groups within and outside Japan.

This study focused on the common factors shared by the two groups including that they each run own training school, own a performance theater and encourage competition between members for purpose of self-improvement.

Key Words : Entertainment Show Business, Service Sector, The Takarazuka Revue, AKB48, Building Differentiation

Changes and future issues in visiting care services in developed countries: Focus on Japan, France, Germany and the Netherlands

Miyako NAKAMURA FUJIMORI

At present, in 2013, there are changes in provision of visiting care services for people requiring care showing signs of loss of autonomy in the reform proposed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, as Japan moves toward the 2015 revision of the Nursing Care insurance system. Currently, visiting care services are a statutory benefit of Nursing Care Insurance, but in the proposed revision, they will be incorporated into new community support projects implemented at the discretion of the city, town or village. The trend is for community NPOs, volunteer groups and businesses to be used to provide daily living support services such as prevention of the need for care, meals services and monitoring visits in line with the policies and situation of the city, town or village. However, judging by the fact that it is visiting care services that have been most used by people requiring care, there is a view that the proposed revision means cutbacks in these services. Furthermore, although it is still not clear, one is made aware of the aim of promoting home help and care services as a free market rather than quasi-market through nursing care insurance and public services. Within this context, this paper examines the kinds of trends evident in visiting care services in public care systems in developed countries. Based on this, the situation of visiting care service market policies in France, where visiting care

services consume a large part financially in the care system for elderly people, is introduced.

Key Words : Japan Nursing Care Insurance System revision proposal, support services for daily life, trends in visiting care services in developed countries, visiting care service market in France

A Note on the Easterlin and Other Paradoxes

Shoken ITO

It is important to distinguish four sides of well-being—life evaluation, life satisfaction, happiness, emotion—when we discuss the Easterlin and Other Paradoxes. On the one hand, recent studies which analyzed the international data of Cantril Ladder type, revealed that life evaluations have positive and linear correlations with incomes in international comparisons. On the other, a study which analyzed U. S. data, found emotional happiness saturated at a certain income level. Paradox still remains.

Key Words : happiness economics, subjective well-being, life evaluation, emotional happiness

Lyons' (1977) analysis of subjective / objective epistemic modality and its problems

Hirohito KATAOKA

Though Lyons (1977) is well known for its proposal to distinguish the 'subjective' and 'objective' epistemic modalities, its fundamental assumption of tripartite structure of utterance meaning has not received the proper attention. A closer reexamination will uncover mainly two problems with Lyons' analysis. Firstly, it does not treat some cases that are not strictly subjective (speaker-involved) nor objective. Secondly, the analysis treats some supposedly epistemic uses of modals as involving some indication of illocutionary forces, only to get caught in infinite regression.

Key Words : modality, epistemic modality, subjectivity / objectivity, speech acts
