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Unbalanced Spatial Distribution of Gender and “Migration for Marriage” in Japan

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Metropolitan-bounded migration of the non-metropolitan-born young people for further and higher education and for searching a first job has been dominated by males and caused an unbalanced spatial distribution of gender for those aged around twenty in Japan. This gender gap, males dominates in metropolitan area and females in non-metropolitan area respectively, narrows down almost completely after marriage. Based on cohort analysis of the “the forth migration survey” conducted in 1996 for whole Japan, this paper reveals that the narrowing process of the gender gap is classified into two aspects; non-metropolitan-bounded migration of males between the first job and marriage and metropolitan-bounded migration of females at marriage. The former one has been regarded as “return migration” and explained mostly by economic factors. The latter has never mentioned before because of the lack of empirical data. These two stages of migration for narrowing the unbalanced spatial distribution of gender can be considered “migration for marriage”. The cohort born after 1940 reduced their gender gap mainly by the non-metropolitan-bounded migration of the males while the female migration to the metropolitan area was important for cohort born before 1940.