

Does Leaving Parental Home Accelerate the Timing of the 1st Marriage in the United States and Japan?

Keita SUGA

This study analyzes two micro-datasets to test whether leaving parental home accelerates the 1st marriage occurrence. Multi-state life tables and estimates of Cox's relative risk model of Japan and the United States leads the following results.

First, for males, Japanese people leave home more likely at the earlier stage of life course than those in the United States, while Japanese people are less likely to be married at each age. In turn, the duration of being never-married after left home is longer for Japanese males than white males of the United States. For females, durations both of being never-married and staying parental home are longer for Japanese than white females in the United States.

Second, a transition to the state of leaving home before the 1st marriage has a significantly, positive effect on an occurrence of the 1st marriage at each age, and the size of the effect is significantly smaller for Japanese males and females than those of the United States in a comparison by gender. Moreover, the effect of leaving home is the strongest among any other effects of covariates in the model, however the one on females gradually declines over risk periods. As a consequence, it becomes unconceivable around age 34 of Japanese females.