

Japan in the Post-demographic Transition Period: A Comprehensive Study of the Long-term Development of Population and Socioeconomic system

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Demographic system and socioeconomic system always work interdependently. In this paper, we examined the relationships between demographic changes and socioeconomic transformation that have occurred in the process from the demographic transition phase to the post-demographic transition phase in Japan, in which process all demographic forces determining human reproduction such as fertility and mortality, population size and age structure drastically changed. Specifically, we contrasted the post-demographic transition period with the demographic transition period to characterize them from the viewpoints of (1) population distribution, mobility and migration (including internal migration, intergenerational mobility and international migration), (2) population economics (including macro economy, employment, and social security), (3) population sociology (including life course, social network, household, family system, gender relations, sexuality and education), and (4) the area of thought, culture and politics.

The comparative look at the shift between those two transition phases, which occurred in years from the middle of the 1970s to the late 2000s in Japan, sheds a new light on the long term development of demographic and socioeconomic systems and provides useful prospects on the future evolution, although here the discussions mostly rely on theoretical thinking from statistical data and existent literature. Hence we need further examinations for strict verification of interdependency between demographic and socioeconomic phenomena.

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