

Interregional Marriage and Migration

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This paper examines the recent changes in interregional marriage, or so-called geographical heterogamy, by using the data drawn from the Eighth National Survey on Migration in Japan. The results show that the proportions of married couples whose birth prefectures differ from each other increased among those born from 1946 to 1976 (husband's birth year). At the regional level (metropolitan / nonmetropolitan areas), the proportions of couples whose birth regions differ from each other generally decreased among those living in the metropolitan area, but increased among non-metropolitan residents born after 1946. Our examination of the demographic factors of those interregional changes in marriage patterns finds that the changes in geographical heterogamy can be mainly attributed to the population size effects due to regional demographic factors such as migration and geographical distribution of births. The results also suggest that the other residual effects that can be explained by non population-size factors such as mate selection preference have contributed to the changes both at the prefectural and regional levels.

Keywords: geographical heterogamy, migration, marriage