Panel: Social Capital and Lifestyle under Austerity

Social capital is often defined as something that can be most useful in minimizing costs of misunderstanding and transactions when one tries to forge bridges and enhance bonds, when one ventures joint undertakings, and when one tries to regularize reciprocities. Social capital is such a broad concept that it is often used to mean what you mean, but yet of all the matters that are conceptualized as being caused by social capital, directly or indirectly, two stand out – democracy and prosperity.

This panel seeks to explore the relationship between social capital and lifestyle under austerity. Paul Whiteley explores the electoral consequences of austerity policies in Britain showing that the recession is weakening social capital in the country.

Yasuharu Ukai presents a paper that examines leadership gap between the right and the left, focusing on social security expenditure indexes and labor productivity during 1980-2009 in Japan. In the case of real social security expenditure per labor and per total working hours, labor productivity decreases with respect to real social security. On the other hand, in the case of real social security expenditure per private capital stock, labor productivity increases with respect to real social security. However, the partial regression coefficients of these three indexes are not significant statistically. Ukai shows us the difficulty in deriving a clear relationship between the social security indexes and labor productivity.

Seiji Fujii and Takashi Inoguchi examines responses of citizenry in relation to government agency across six countries: the United States, Australia, Japan, Russia, India, and China. What would you do when you request a government permit yet the response is “wait with patience.” Options examined are Exit: Act without a permit, Voice1: Use connections to obtain the permit, Voice2: Write a letter, Voice3: Bribe an official, Loyalty1: Nothing can be done, Loyalty2: Wait and hope that things will work out. The paper empirically examines by logit regression models as applied to each of the above six options to the citizenry. The AsiaBarometer survey 2008 data were analyzed.

Focusing on the Nepali civil war, Yuichi Kubota and Shinya Sasaoka explore why those who benefit from the status quo accept the transition from an existing system to future democracy following the negotiated settlement of war. In previous studies, a variable that is neither explicitly addressed nor examined is the adherence of citizens to democratic stability. In severe life conditions under the civil war, those Kathmandu
residents who had high income and great worries about domestic order and the
economic situation favored a democratic settlement that would guarantee political and
economic stability.

Taiki Takahashi proposes a molecular neuroeconomic framework for the
investigation into crime and punishment. Neuroeconomic parameters (e.g.,
risk-attitude, probability weighting, time discounting in intertemporal choice,
loss aversion, and social discounting) are predicted to be related to criminal
behavior. Neurobiological and neuroendocrinological substrates such as
serotonin, dopamine, norepinephrine, cortisol (a stress hormone), sex hormones
(e.g., testosterone), and oxytocin in brain regions such as the orbitofrontal cortex,
the amygdala, and the cingulate may be related to the neuroeconomic
parameters governing criminal behaviors.

**Presenters:**
Paul Whiteley (University of Essex), The electoral consequences of austerity policies in
Britain
Yasuharu Ukai (Kansai U.), Leadership Gap between the Right and the Left
Seiji Fujii and Takashi Inoguchi (U. Niigata Prefecture), Exit, Voice and Loyalty:
Response to Government Agency's Instruction to Wait after Requesting a Permit
United States, Australia, Japan, Russia, China and India, 2008
Yuichi Kubota (U. Niigata Prefecture) and Shinya Sasaoka (Hiroshima Shudo
University), Transformation of the Socioeconomic Structure and the Attitude of
Citizens toward Democracy in the Nepal Civil War
Taiki Takahashi (Hokkaido University), Molecular Neuroeconomics of Crime and
Punishment

**Discussants:**
Keisuke Iida (University of Tokyo)