

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS
2010-2011

ANNUAL REPORT

OF OSAKA UNIVERSITY

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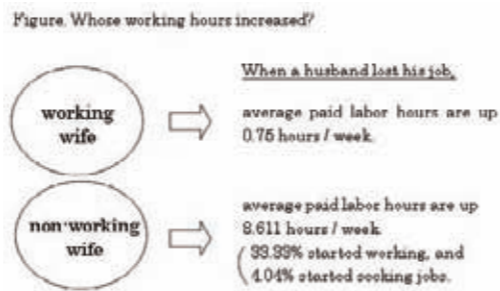
The Response of Japanese Wives' Labor Supply to Husbands' Job Loss

Kohara, M. (Osaka School of International Public Policy)

Journal of Population Economics, 23(4), 1133-1149 (2010)

Japanese married women's labor supply is well known for its rigidity. Past studies have shown that they are irresponsible not only to their own wages but also to the circumstances their families face. This paper reexamines whether or not this is really the case, focusing on their husbands' unemployment. Controlling for wives' and husbands' unobserved characteristics and the characteristics of the firms they work for, we found that wives' labor supply is stimulated when husbands suffer involuntary job loss. A detailed analysis shows that not only do working wives increase their working

hours but that nonworking wives also enter the labor market. The added worker effect is evident during the period of job insecurity in Japan starting in the mid-1990s.



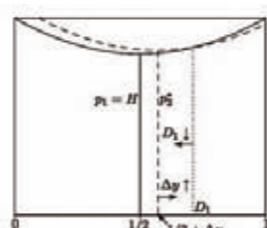
Collusion, Agglomeration, and Heterogeneity of Firms

Matsumura, T.; Matsushima, N. (Institute of Social and Economic Research)

Games and Economic Behavior, 72, 306-313 (2011)

The clustering of similar outlets is a truly universal trait. However, d'Aspremont, Gabszewicz, and Thisse (1979) show that the sellers seek to move as far away from each other as possible (the well-known "maximum differentiation" principle). In Jehiel (1992) and Friedman and Thisse (1993) show that spatial agglomeration appears in a standard two-stage location price model if symmetric firms collude in prices. We reconsider their models. We introduce a cost difference between two firms. We show that agglomeration never appears in a collusive equilibrium even when the cost

difference between firms is sufficiently small. That is, collusion in price does not explain the mechanism behind the clustering of similar outlets.



Reprinted from Games and Economic Behavior, 72, Toshihiro Matsumura, Noriaki Matsushima, Collusion, agglomeration and heterogeneity of firms, 306-313, Copyright(2011), with permission from Elsevier.

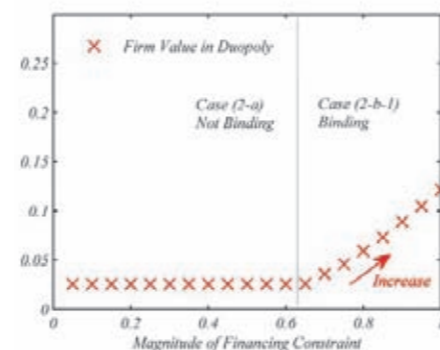
Interactions between Preemptive Competition and a Financing Constraint

Nishihara, M.; Shibata, T. (Graduate School of Economics)

Journal of Economics & Management Strategy, 19, 1013-1042 (2010)

We develop an investment and financing model in which two identical firms compete for first-mover advantage in an opportunity to invest. We investigate the interactions between preemptive competition and a financing constraint. We show that a medium-intensity financing constraint can play a positive role in mitigating the preemptive competition and improving firm value in equilibrium. This positive effect is in sharp contrast with the conventional negative effects of the financing constraint. The positive effect is strong, especially for IT venture businesses because of the following characteristics: severe preemptive competition, a lack of internal

funds, high uncertainty regarding future project value, and high bankruptcy costs.



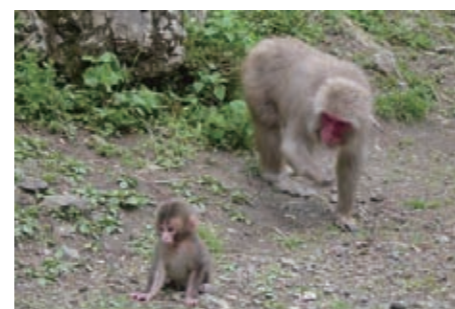
Maternal Infant Monitoring in a Free-ranging Group of Japanese Macaques (Macaca fuscata)

Onishi, K.; Nakamichi, M. (Graduate School of Human Sciences)

International Journal of Primatology, 32, 209-222 (2011)

In primates, mothers visually monitor their infants to detect and consequently avoid potential threats. We investigated the infant monitoring efforts of Japanese monkey mothers. We found that infants were monitored frequently when handled by group members, suggesting that mothers were more concerned about intragroup threats (harassment) than external threats (infanticide). We confirmed that mothers face a trade-off between infant monitoring and important activities (feeding or grooming). However, even during important activities, mothers increased infant monitoring when infants were handled. Thus, mothers deal with

the trade-off by increasing infant monitoring only when their infants face greater potential intragroup threats.



A mother is monitoring her infant.

Modern Japanese Role Language (Yakuwarigo): Fictionalized Orality in Japanese Literature and Popular Culture

Teshigawara, M.; Kinsui, S. (Graduate School of Letters)

Sociolinguistic Studies, 5(1), (2011)

Emerging research in Japanese linguistics examines the association between character types portrayed and their spoken language features in fiction, popular culture, and beyond. Spoken language features (vocabulary and grammar) and phonetic characteristics (intonation and accent patterns) psychologically associated with particular character types are termed "role language" (yakuwarigo) in Kinsui (2003). This study seeks to introduce non-Japanese readers to research on role language and gives an overview, drawing on key literature (Kinsui, 2003, 2008b). Characteristics of role language and analyses of some established character types are discussed, followed by a review of cross-linguistic studies.

The Japanese language has much to offer towards research in role language.

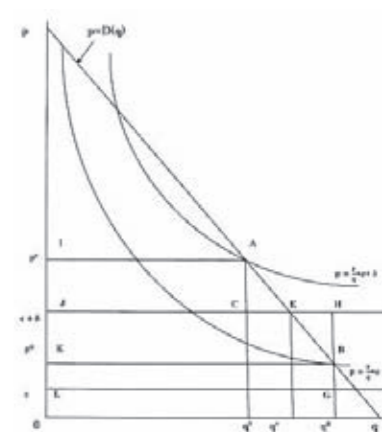


Socially Optimal Liability Rules for Firms with Natural Monopoly in Contestable Markets

Tsuneki, A. (Institute of Social and Economic Research)

International Review of Law and Economics, 31, 99-102 (2011)

This article considers the problem of socially efficient liability rules for firms in contestable markets where natural monopoly prevails due to decreasing average cost. If the fixed cost that pushes the entry-limiting price above marginal cost is large relative to the level of external harm of firms, the negligence regime is socially superior to the strict liability regime. In the opposite case, the strict liability rule may be socially superior.



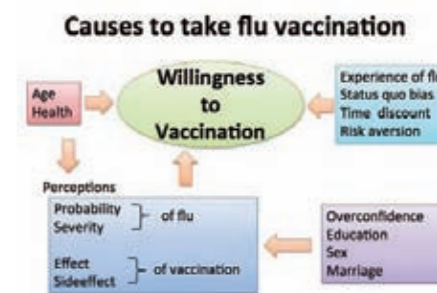
A Policy to Promote Influenza Vaccination: A Behavioral Economic Approach

Tsutsui, Y.; Benzion, U.; Shahrabani, S.; Din, G. Y. (Graduate School of Economics)

Health Policy, 97, 238-249 (2010)

The aims of this study were to identify predictors regarding people's willingness to be vaccinated against influenza and to determine how to improve the inoculation rate using our original large-scale survey in the USA in 2005. The main results are (a) a model of bounded rationality explains vaccination behavior fairly well, i.e., people evaluate the costs and benefits of vaccination by applying risk aversion and time preference, while the 'status quo bias' of those who received vaccinations in the past affect their decision to be vaccinated in the future, (b) overconfidence affect the decision indirectly through perceived variables, and (c) it is

recommended to increase people's knowledge regarding flu vaccination, but not regarding influenza illness.



Variation in N-V Compound Verbs in Japanese

Yumoto, Y. (Graduate School of Language and Culture)

Lingua, 120, 2388-2404(2010)

This paper shows that in Japanese there is a compounding of a verb with its argument that results in a N-V compound with a [+V] feature, contrary to Sugioka (2002). She claims Japanese N-V compounds with a [-V] feature are formed through incorporation of an argument into V, while those with [+V] involve only adjuncts and are formed at the LCS. This paper claims that the third type is different from these types in its motivation and the mechanism

of word formation. Its motivation lies in the foregrounding of a certain participant in the event represented by V, and its mechanism of compounding can be explained properly in the framework of Pustejovsky (1995) as exemplified below.

