

Hiroyuki Yamada

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Contact Information

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<u>Education</u>	Ph.D. Economics	University of Chicago	Expected June 2008
	M.A. Economics	University of Chicago	December 2003
	M.A. Economics	University of Tokyo	March 2002
	B.A. Economics	Keio University	March 1997

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary: Development Economics, Labor/Population Economics,
Applied Econometrics
Secondary: Public Finance, Environmental Economics

Teaching Experience:

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago
- Topics in Economic Development and Growth (2003, 2004)
- Environmental Economics (2005, 2006, 2007)
- Economics and Environmental Policy (2005, 2006, 2007)
- Economics for Public Policy (2006, 2007)
- Elements of Economic Analysis (Microeconomics, 2005)

Research Experience :

- Research Assistant to Robert Townsend at University of Chicago, 2004-present
- Research Assistant to Yasuyuki Sawada at University of Tokyo, 2000-2002

Work Experience

- Consultant for World Bank, July 2006 - June 2007. Project: Public Expenditure Trucking Survey in Primary Education and Health in Lao PDR.
- Intern at International Monetary Fund (IMF), Summer 2005: Project: Forestry Taxation in Africa.
- Researcher at Japan International Cooperation Center October 1999 – March 2000.
- Mathematics and Science Teacher at Kalumbwa Secondary School, Kalulushi Zambia, July 1997-July 1999, dispatched as a volunteer (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) by Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

- The Conference Fund, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 2007
- Immasche Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 2006-2007
- University of Chicago Fellowship, 2004-2006
- The Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Advanced Studies, 2002-2004

Presentations

- CSAE Conference 2007 Economic Development in Africa, University of Oxford, March 2007.
- Microeconomics Workshop, University of Tokyo, 2002

Publications (non-refereed):

“Japan's ODA and Poverty Reduction: A Cross-Donor Comparison and a Case Study of Malaysia” (with Yasuyuki Sawada), 2003, in Asian Development Experience Voll:

External Factors for Asian Development. (eds. Hirohisa Kohama), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

Research Papers:

“The Impact of the Introduction of Sectoral Minimum Wages on Low Wage Markets in a Low Income Country: Evidence from South Africa” (Job Market Paper)

<Abstract > We exploit the introduction of minimum wages in the agricultural and domestic work sectors of South Africa to study how the structure of low-wage labor markets of a low-income country changes with the changes in policy. Even after the introduction of the minimum wage, we find widespread and persistent non-compliance. Our (lower-bound) estimate of the national level compliance rate in the agricultural sector in 2003 is 29%, while that of the domestic work sector in 2003 is even lower at 17%. Further, the compliance rates by sub-population groups reveal that compliance rate is low where the cost to comply with the minimum wage law is high. This implies that government enforcements are not done in situations where they are likely to have the highest payoff due to the number of people involved and where there are incentives for noncompliance. However, it may be also true that the government intentionally allow high noncompliance in such areas as strict enforcement may have huge adverse impact on the most vulnerable people. Although we see increase in employment at the wage range above the minimum wage and in the adjacent sector without minimum wage, the net employment effect is negative. Further, the simultaneous changes in the intensive margins show a worker directly impacted by the introduction of minimum wage may experience decrease in important non-monetary compensation and working hours in exchange for the increase in wage, implying that only investigating monetary compensation (i.e. wage rate) may overestimate the benefits of the introduction of minimum wage. We also find evidence of a labor-labor substitution in both sectors and that the introduction of minimum wage prompts employers to hire more-skilled/non-poor workforce, which adversely impacts the least-skilled/ the poor. Judging from the collected evidence, the policy may not be very effective in poverty reduction as claimed by the South African government and hopes that there may not necessarily be a decrease in total earnings.

“Is Aid Allocation Consistent with Global Poverty Reduction? A Cross-Donor Comparison.” (with Yasuyuki Sawada and Takashi Kurosaki), 2006

<Abstract >In this paper, we investigate the gap between the first target of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the actual allocation of grant aid in the late 1990s in order to identify necessary policy adjustments to achieve the goal. As a theoretical framework, we extend the poverty targeting framework of Besley and Kanbur (1988) by considering multiple donors and possible strategic interactions among them. We also incorporate the agency aspects of donor-recipient relationships elaborated by the recent aid literature such as Azam and Laffont (2003) and Svensson (2000, 2003). As an empirical analysis, we employ detailed data on grant aid allocation of eleven major aid donor countries and on aid disbursement of six international institutions such as the IBRD, IDA, and the UN organizations. Three main empirical results emerged. First, in the late 1990s, grant allocations of Canada, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and U.K. are consistent with the necessary condition of the optimal poverty targeting. Second, we found that there is a negative population scale effect for aid allocations, suggesting that strategic motives may also exist. Finally, the overall results for multilateral donors indicate that allocation patterns are consistent with the theory of poverty targeting.

“Causal Effects of Sex Preference on Sex-Blind and Sex-Selective Child Avoidance and Substitution across Birth Years: Evidence from the Japanese Year of the Horse.” (with C. Rohlf and A. Reed), 2007, under review.

<Abstract >This paper examines the effect of a short-term change in preference for male offspring on couples' childbearing and child-avoidance behaviors. We exploit a natural experiment in Japan in which girls born in a specific astrological year are regarded as less desirable. We relate this superstition to an economic model of child avoidance. We then measure the relative importance of sex-selective and sex-blind child avoidance responses and the degree of substitutability of children across birth years in Japan in 1846, 1906, and 1966 nationwide and across geographic areas.

“Decomposing the Racial Wage Gap Between Africans and Whites in South Africa After the Collapse of Apartheid: The Decline of “White Premium”, 2007

<Abstract >We study the observed racial wage gap between Africans and Whites in South Africa after the collapse of Apartheid and its sources in the labor market. During the 10 years since the collapse of Apartheid, this wage gap gradually decreases; but it is still vast. We find that being merely White has a tremendous advantage for them. However, this white premium decreases through time, which contributes to the shrinkage of the wage difference. At the same time, trends in the differences in return from education and age that favor the Whites partially compensate the decrease in “White premium” through time. Selection into employment also impacts the observed racial wage gap.

“Is it bad luck to be born in the Year of Fire Horse in Japan?”, 2007, under review.

<Abstract > The year of the fire horse (called "Hinoeuma" in Japanese) is one of the sixty Chinese zodiac symbols used for counting years. According to superstition, fire horse women are said to have troubled marriages and to mistreat men, to cause their husbands and fathers early deaths. No such stigma applies to men born in these years. This paper attempts to investigate the impact of women's being born in the most recent fire horse year (1966) on the outcome of their lives, by using individual-level microdata. We find that there is no evidence of disadvantages to fire horse women in human capital investment, performance in the marriage market, and intrahousehold allocation of resources after the marriage. This is a puzzle, given the huge decline in the 1966 cohort size. We suggest the dynamic transition in the share of each type of marriage (arranged or love) differently affected the decision of parents in 1966 and the performance of fire horse women in the marriage market and intrahousehold resource allocation after the marriage.

“Absenteeism among Health Workers in Lao PDR: Is the Low Rate an Exception?” (with X. Luo and Y. Sawada) 2007

<Abstract > We report that absent rate of health workers in Lao PDR is exceptionally low: 17% in broad definition and 7% in narrow definition. These rates are much lower than those of any other developing countries reported in the literature so far. We provide several possible explanations for the low rates. Within-country variation reveals that financial disincentive, ruralness, and a health worker's being from a same sub-district are significantly correlated with the probability of absenteeism, suggesting some policy intervention may be able to reduce absenteeism further.

Other Papers

“Why isn't my salary paid on time? What should I do without what I am supposed to receive (although insufficient)? : Salary delivery delay, insufficiency and their impact on teachers and health workers in Lao PDR” (with X. Luo and Y. Sawada) 2007

“ The Determinants of Duration of Temporal Migration in Thailand: Competing Risk Approach” 2005

Research Papers in Progress

“Sharing Wage Risk” (with Pierre-Andre Chiappori and Robert Townsend)

“Rational Public Health Delivery Decision under Human Resource and Financial Constraints in Lao PDR”

References

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