

KOTARO FUJISAKI

PhD Student at University College London, Department of Economics

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study development and labour economics, with a primary focus on Asia.

My research interest is how norms—from cultural traditions to modern social norms—shape (A) individual and firm behavior and (B) policy effectiveness.

EDUCATION

MPhil/PhD in Economics | University College London (UCL), The United Kingdom

09/2023-

- Supervisors: Jonas Hjort and Suphanit Piyapromdee

MRes in Economics with Distinction | University College London (UCL), The United Kingdom

09/2022-09/2023

MSc in Economics with Distinction (Year 1) and Merit (Year 2) | London School of Economics (LSE), The United Kingdom

09/2020-06/2022

Master's in International Public Policy | Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), Osaka University, Japan

04/2020-09/2023

- Best Master's Thesis Award
- GPA: 4.00/4.00 (out of 20 credits)

LLB | Department of International Public Policy, Osaka University, Japan

04/2015-03/2020

- GPA: 3.90/4.00 (out of 166 credits)
- Study Abroad | National University of Singapore, Singapore (08/2018-05/2019)
- Study Abroad | Seoul National University, South Korea (06/2017-07/2017)

WORKING PAPERS

Fujisaki, K. (2025) "Policy for Closing Education Gaps across Gender and Culture: Tuition-Free Education or School Construction?", RIEB Discussion Paper Series No.2025-16

WORK IN PROGRESS

Corporate Social Responsibility, Firm Performance, and Environment: Evidence from Mandatory CSR in Indonesia

Employer Diversity Signals and Match Quality in Job Search (with Miki Kohara, Yanni Shen, Yumi Ishikawa)

First Step Toward Eliminating Child Labor: Hazardous-Sector Child-Labor Ban in Cambodia

Regional vs. Sectoral Minimum Wage Implementation

Does Transparency Reduce Gender Inequality in the Workplace? Evidence from Japanese Firms (with Miki Kohara)

Gendered Trade-off Between Schooling and Household Labor

PUBLICATIONS (in Japanese)

Fujisaki, K. (2020). *Gaikokujinzai no ukeire ga ukeirekoku rōdōshijō no chingin suijun ni ataeru eikyō: Taiwan ni okeru syūgyōfukumuhō shikō wo shizenjikken toshite* [Immigration and Native Wages: Taiwanese 1991 Employment Service Law as A Natural Experiment]. *Machikane Hösei Journal*, 10, 4-33.

Fujisaki, K., Kusuda, S., & Loke Z. (2018). *Indonesia ni okeru CSR katsudō ga zaimu pafōmansu ni ataeru eikyō no bunseki* [Corporate Social Responsibility and Financial Performance: Empirical research into the Effect of Mandatory CSR Law in Indonesia]. *Machikane Hösei Journal*, 8, 2-20.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2026: UCL PhD Seminar (UK, scheduled)

2025: Stockholm University ENTER seminar (Sweden); 4th Workshop of Gender and Economics (Luxembourg); Stone Centre Conference on Education and Inequality (UK); UCL PhD Seminar (UK); Kobe University (Japan); Osaka University CEPO Lunch Seminar (Japan); Osaka University ISER (Japan); Young JADE Conference 2025 (Japan); JSIE Next Generation Workshop 2025 (Japan); Hitotsubashi U (Japan)

2024: PSE-CEPR Policy Forum (France); Osaka University CEPO Lunch Seminar (Japan); Royal Economic Society PhD Conderence 2024 (UK); Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics 2024 Conference (Thailand)

2023: Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics 2023 Conference (Taiwan); Stone Centre and UCL Research Day 2023 Poster Session (UK); UCL PhD Seminar (UK)

2022: Osaka University CEPO Lunch Seminar (Japan)

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Dr Shuhei Kitamura (Associate Professor of Economics), Osaka University, Osaka, Japan	01-03/2020
Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME), Singapore	01-04/2019
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia	10/2017-03/2018

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Moriguchi Prize Runner-up, ISER, Osaka University	12/2025
Research Grant for "First Step Toward Eliminating Child Labor: Hazardous-Sector Child-Labor Ban in Cambodia" (approx. 3,000 GBP), Labor Research Center, Japan	08/2025
Research Grant for "Regional vs. Sectoral Minimum Wage Implementation" (approx. 1,500 GBP), KIER Foundation, Kyoto University	06/2025
Kanematsu/Nishijima Prize, RIEB, Kobe University	06/2025
Research Grant for "Corporate Social Responsibility, Firm Performance, and Environment: Evidence from Mandatory CSR in Indonesia" (approx. 5,000 GBP), Mishima Kaiun Memorial Foundation	06/2024
Best Master's Thesis Award, OSIPP, Osaka University	03/2024
Research Activity Encouragement Award, OSIPP, Osaka University	09/2021
Scholarship for Graduate Study (at UCL), Japan Student Services Organization	09/2022-06/2023, 10/2023-08/2025
Scholarship for Graduate Study (at LSE), ITO Foundation for International Education Exchange	09/2020-06/2021, 09/2021-06/2022
Scholarship for Graduate Study (at OSIPP), Honjo International Scholarship Foundation	04-08/2020, 07-08/2021, 07-09/2022, 07-09/2023
Best Bachelor's Thesis Award, Seiun-kai Law Faculty Thesis Competition	01/2020
The Excellence Award, Seiun-kai Law Career Development Competition	01/2020
Academic Acceleration, Department of International Public Policy, Osaka University	04/2019-03/2020
Scholarship for Exchange Programme (at NUS), Gyomu Super Japan Dream Foundation	08/2018-05/2019
Best Bachelor's Thesis Award, Seiun-kai Law Faculty Thesis Competition (with coauthors)	01/2018
The Excellence Award, One Asia Association Thesis Competition	07/2017
Scholarship for Exchange Programme (at SNU), Osaka University and The Association of East Asian Research Universities	06-07/2017

REFEREE SERVICE

Journal of the European Economic Association

LANGUAGES

Japanese (Native); English (C1 Certified); Chinese (C1 Certified); Bahasa Indonesia (B2 Certified); Korean: Basic (A2)

CERTIFICATES

IELTS: Overall 8.0 (C1)	01/2022
HSK 汉语水平考试 (Government-authorised Chinese proficiency test): Grade 5 (C1) with Total 246/300 (80-90th)	05/2019
HIPUBI Ujian Kemampuan Berbahasa Indonesia (Ministry-affiliated Indonesian proficiency exam): Grade C (approx. B2)	07/2019