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BROWN UNIVERSITY

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Personal Information:
Citizenship: Japan

Pre-Doctoral Studies:
Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Hitotsubashi University, Japan, 2013
Master's in Economics, Hitotsubashi University, Japan, 2015

Graduate Studies:
Brown University, Providence, RI, USA 2016 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: Essays in the Biogeographical Origins of Economic Development
Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References:

Professor Oded Galor
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Professor Stelios Michalopoulos
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Professor Louis Putterman
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Research and Teaching Fields:
Primary fields: Economic Growth, Comparative Development
Secondary fields: Cultural Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

Research Experience and Other Employment:
Summer 2018 Brown University, Research Assistant, Professor Oded Galor

Professional Activities
Oct 2020 Global Wellbeing Initiative, Discussant
Nov 2021 NEUDC, Paper Discussant

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

Internal Growth Seminar at Brown University (multiple times) 2018-2022
NEUDC at Boston University 2021
Applied Young Economist Webinar at Monash University 2022
Eurasia Business and Economics Society Conference, Oct 2022 (in schedule)
SEA Annual Meeting, Nov 2022 (in schedule)

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2016-2019	Japan Student Services Organization Scholarship
2019	Third Year Paper Distinction Award, Brown University
Spring 2021	Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University

Research Papers:

"Overkill, Extinction and the Neolithic Revolution" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: I explore the biogeographical origins of the emergence and diffusion of agriculture. I develop a model showing that the extinction of large herbivores decreased hunting gains and permitted an earlier agricultural transition. It also shows that the biological vulnerability of mammals increased the risk of the extinction and permitted an earlier transition. To test the predictions, I construct a novel measure of the loss of hunting resources resulting from mammal extinction. The analysis uses spatial and temporal variation, accounts for the paleoclimatic characteristics, and exploits the biological vulnerability as an instrument for the extinction. I show a significant impact of the extinction on the emergence and diffusion of agriculture. Moreover, I demonstrate a persistent effect of the extinction in prehistory on socioeconomic development that lasted until preindustrial period.

"Horses and the State"

Abstract: This research explores the effect of horses on the state and historical battles. I exploit multiple exogenous sources of variation in the adoption of horse riding on the battlefield: (i) the exogenous regional variation in the spread of horse-riding technology, (ii) the exogenous variation in the availability of native horses, and (iii) the exogenous change in horse availability in the Americas during the course of the Columbian Exchange. Using these exogenous variations and multiple datasets spanning several millennia, the research provides repeated evidence of the significant impact of horses on state formation and historical battles. Rich historical accounts support the critical role of horses in state building through their influence as a military power.

"Biogeographical Origins of Risk Preference"

Abstract: This paper explores the biogeographical origins of differences in risk preference across regions and individuals. The theory shows that individuals whose ancestors lived in regions that had abundant hunting resources tend to be more risk averse. Such regions attracted even risk-averse individuals and thus the population became more risk averse. To test the hypothesis, I construct a novel measure of megaherbivore biomass. I find that this measure is a strong predictor of hunting dependency in traditional societies. I show that, consistent with the theory, decendants of inhabitants of regions characterized by larger megaherbivore biomass have higher risk aversion.

Work in Progress

"American Prosperity: The Role of Upper-Tail Human Capital"

Description: In this study, I examine the effect of upper-tail human capital on (i) income, education, and research productivity; and (ii) the values for science. The analysis is conducted within the context of immigrants to America who has the upper-tail human capital. To address the endogeneity of the location choices of immigrants with upper-tail human capital, I conduct an estimate based on the "shift-share" instrumental variable methodology. It demonstrates that (i) both in the short and long run, counties that have more immigrants who have upper-tail human capital tend to have higher income, education, and research productivity; and (ii) individuals who reside in a county that historically have more immigrants who have upper-tail human capital tend to put more importance on science.

"Human Admixture: The Short- and Long-Run Impacts on Economic Development"

Description: Admixture is by definition genetic mixing. However, the degree of admixture can be regarded as the degree of mixing in terms of both genes and culture. In this study, I explore the short- and long-run effects of genetic and cultural mixing on economic development. In the short run, the admixture can be bad because it reduces social cohesion and leads to mistrust. However, the admixture can be good in the long run because: (i) it increases population diversity, which raises productivity (Ashraf and Galor, 2013); and (ii) social cohesion improves through the assimilation process. Using the novel data on human admixture by Hellenthal et al. (2014), I test this hypothesis. I demonstrate that human admixture is negatively associated with development in the short-run while the association is positive in the long run.

Teaching Experience

Before 2015 Intermediate Microeconomics @Hitotsubashi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Shinichi Takekuma (multiple times)
Advanced Macroeconomics @Hitotsubashi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Takashi Kano

Languages

English (fluent), Japanese (native)

Software

Python, ArcGIS, STATA, Matlab, LaTex