

## Yoko Okuyama

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**Fields of Concentration:**

Labor Economics  
Political Economy  
Economics of Gender

**Desired Teaching:**

Econometrics  
Labor Economics  
Political Economy  
Economics of Gender

**Comprehensive Examinations Completed:**

2016 (Oral): Labor Economics, Econometrics  
2015(Written): Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

**Dissertation Title:** *Essays on Women's Participation in Decision-Making*

**Committee:**

Professor Ebonya Washington (Chair)  
Professor Joseph Altonji  
Professor Costas Meghir

**Expected Completion Date:** May 2020

**Degrees:**

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2020 (expected)  
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2017  
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2016  
M.A., Economics, University of Tokyo, 2014  
B.A., Economics, University of Tokyo, 2012

**Fellowships, Honors and Awards:**

University Dissertation Fellowship, 2019-, Yale University  
Overbrook Fellowship, Yale University, 2015-2018  
University Fellowship, Yale University, 2014-2018  
Cowles Foundation Fellowship, 2014-2018  
Nakajima Foundation Scholarship, 2014-2019  
Repayment exemption for graduate students with excellent achievements, Japan Student Services Organization Scholarship (JASSO), June 2014

**Research Grants:**

Research Fellowship for Young Scientists DC1, 2014, Japan Society for Promotion of Sciences, 2014

**Teaching Experience:**

*Yale University*

Introduction to Econometrics and Data Analysis I,  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Nicholas Ryan, Fall 2018, Yale College  
Econometrics and Data Analysis II,  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Joseph Altonji, Spring 2018, Yale College  
Econometrics and Data Analysis I,  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Edward Vytlačil, Fall 2017, Yale College  
Econometrics and Data Analysis I,  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Nicholas Ryan, Spring 2017, Yale College

*University of Tokyo*

Microeconomics (undergraduate),  
Teaching Assistant to Professor Akihiko Matsui, Winter 2012, University of Tokyo

**Research and Work Experience:**

Research assistant to Professor Yasuyuki Sawada, Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Japan), January 2013 – March 2014  
Research assistant to Professor Yasuyuki Sawada, University of Tokyo, April 2012 – January 2013  
Research assistant to Professor Akihiko Matsui, University of Tokyo, October 2010 – March 2012

**Publications (Pre-Ph.D.):**

"Land and Real Estate Price Sensitivity to a Disaster: Evidence from the 2011 Thai Floods" with Yasuyuki Sawada, Hiroyuki Nakada, and Kunio Sekiguchi (2018), *Economic Bulletin*  
"The Long-Run Socio-Economic Consequences of a Large Disaster: The 1995 Earthquake in Kobe" with William duPont IV, Ilan Noy, and Yasuyuki Sawada (2015), *PLoS ONE 10(10): e0138714*

**Working Papers:**

“Toward Better Informed Decision-Making: the Impacts of a Mass Media Campaign on Women's Outcomes in Occupied Japan” (November 2019), *Job Market Paper*

“Intrahousehold Welfare in Japan” with Pierre-André Chiappori and Costas Meghir (November 2019)

“The Causes and Consequences of Increased Women's Representation in Politics: Evidence from Japan” (2018)

**Seminar and Conference Presentations:**

Presentation, 2018, Kyoto Summer Workshop on Applied Economics

Poster Session, 2014, Japanese Economic Association Spring Meeting

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Japanese (native), English (fluent)

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## **Dissertation Abstract**

My dissertation investigates women's participation in decision-making in the political sphere, in the labor market, and within the household.

### **Toward Better Informed Decision-Making: the Impacts of a Mass Media Campaign on Women's Outcomes in Occupied Japan [Job Market Paper]**

Can we use mass media to encourage women to participate more in decision-making? Evidence suggests that women are often more disadvantaged in information acquisition compared to men. Because such gender informational inequality can result in gender inequality in behaviors, policymakers have been viewing targeted information provisions toward women as potent policy levers to address gender inequality. However, little is known about the causal impacts of targeted mass media intervention on women's outcomes. This is what I shed light on.

This paper examines the impact of women's radio programs on female political participation, labor market participation, marriage, and fertility. Specifically, I turn to a nationwide radio intervention in Occupied Japan (1945-1952), where, in an effort to emancipate women as a major pathway to peacebuilding, the occupying authorities aired women's programs and provided Japanese women with a set of new ideas. The new ideas included gender equality, political participation, freedom to choose a marriage partner, and the benefits of birth spacing. To examine the impacts of such new information, I hand-collect data on election turnout and outcomes, employment, marriage, and fertility to construct a unique, municipality-level panel dataset. Although the women's radio programs were on air nationwide, radio exposure, proxied by the municipality-level radio subscription rate, varies across the nation and therefore gives a variation in the treatment intensity.

To address the concern that the radio subscription rate is endogenous, I instrument it with the quality of radio signal reception, namely the ground wave field strength. Due to differential soil type, field strength varies locally even after controlling for distance from the closest transmitter. I argue that such local variation in the field strength is as good as random and show that it increases radio exposure.

I find that greater exposure to women's programs significantly increases women's political participation, both as voters and as representatives. A one standard deviation increase in exposure to women's radio programs increases women's electoral turnout by 2.5 percentage points, closing the gender gap in turnout by 35 percent. The same increase in exposure also raises a female candidate's vote share by 1.3 percentage points, a figure that is much greater than the median win-loss margin of 0.23. Moreover, radio exposure contributes to the birthrate decline. A one standard deviation increase in radio exposure reduces the annual birthrate by 1.8 per 1,000 population relative to a pre-war baseline birthrate of 30 per 1,000 population. On the other hand, I do not find any significant impacts on women's labor market participation or marriage.

Taken together, my results provide evidence that information can change women's behavior and lend support to contemporary initiatives by the UN, NGOs, and NPOs to use mass media to reach out to women who have limited access to information.

## **The Consequences of Increased Women's Representation in Politics: Evidence from Japan**

The female share of the Japanese national legislature began trending upwards in the mid-1990s, after 50 years of hovering around three percent. To better understand the consequences of this change, I examine the impact of female office holding on electoral and public policy outcomes in the context of the Japanese House of Representatives in the last two decades (1996-2017). To isolate the causal effect of legislators' gender, I employ a regression discontinuity design in a sample of contests where a female candidate wins or loses against a male candidate by a narrow margin. As opposed to the long-standing argument that female electoral victories lead more women to run for office, an additional female victory does not affect the number of female candidates nor female winners in the next election. This result is consistent with Ferreira & Gyourko's (2014) and Broockman's (2014) findings for US mayoral and state legislative elections. Moreover, to examine whether additional female officeholding affects legislative outcomes, I turn to patterns of petitions signed by each legislator. Unlike roll-call votes, legislators do not necessarily act along party lines when considering petitions. I find that female legislators are more likely to support petitions on subjects supported by women, namely gender issues and reproductive rights. Therefore, as models of identity politics would predict, the presence of female legislators is an important channel through which women express their needs. Furthermore, contrary to a wide-spread concern that women are less qualified as politicians than men, the gender of legislators does not affect the amount of per-capita intra-governmental transfers, which provides one piece of evidence that female legislators are as good as male legislators at serving the interests of their local constituents.

## **Intrahousehold welfare (with Pierre-André Chiappori and Costas Meghir)**

Measuring individual-level well-being is crucial when we think about public policy, and existing literature has shown that substantial inequality is hidden within the household (Lise & Seitz, 2011). Earlier work has addressed such intra-household inequality, but it has yet to account for household public goods when measuring it. To shed light on this issue, we develop a new way to measure intra-household inequality that reflects individual well-being derived from household public goods. Using a collective household model, we defined the Money Metric Welfare Index (MMWI), which is essentially a monetary amount that a person would need to reach the current utility level if she were to pay the full price of household public goods. We show that the MMWI is uniquely identified up to an increasing transformation. Then we structurally estimate the collective household model and compute the MMWI using the Japanese Panel Survey of Consumers (JPSC). The JPSC is particularly suitable for our purpose because it provides variables that the MMWI requires, including expenditure for household public goods and time use. Estimated MMWI allows us to see how the intrahousehold inequality evolved in the last 20 years.