

Japanese Economy: Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Summer 2021 Syllabus

Note: All official announcements will be done through OLAT Announcement board; therefore, students are highly encouraged to check it regularly

I. Course Organizer

This semester Prof. Dr. Cornelia Storz is on sabbatical leave.

Class Coordinator: Yuma Iwase, M.Sc. (iwase@econ.uni-frankfurt.de)

II. Office Hours

For an appointment with coordinator, please send a message to the above-mentioned email.

III. Seminar Overview and Description

This seminar focuses on entrepreneurship and innovation activities in Japan. Motivated by socioeconomic problems in Japan, we cover a wide range of questions on how to overcome these problems with entrepreneurial activities. Students are expected to successfully discuss the opportunities and challenges that Japanese firms and entrepreneurs currently face.

IV. Seminar Participants

This seminar is open for students of Japanese Studies.

V. Course Materials

All course materials will be uploaded to OLAT. The materials include a guide to scientific writing, a list of databases containing possible datasets to be used in the seminar paper (in addition to Section X), and a list of credible scientific journals that students can preferably reference.

VI. Course Evaluation

The evaluation will be based solely on a seminar paper of 10 ± 2 pages. In addressing your topic (question), both theoretical framework (theoretical motivation) and empirical findings must be scientifically presented. Students are free to choose from one of the suggested topics or they can alternatively investigate their own topics. Selection of the preferred topic is

assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis and should be approved by April 24th at the very latest. In the first week of June, students are scheduled to present their work for 15 minutes each and a discussion will follow for 10-15 minutes per theme group.

There will be three deadlines for paper submission (PDF to: iwase@econ.uni-frankfurt.de) and please state a statutory declaration in your seminar paper (see Section XI). Based on the rules of Examination Office, note that malicious (intentional) plagiarism is strictly prohibited and immediately disqualifies you from earning course credits in this semester. For instance, if it is detected in the first round submission, it leads to a failure (“TA” i.e. Täuschung/Plagiat) and you are no longer allowed to resubmit your paper in the second nor third round; consequently you need to attend the course again in the following semesters. The usage of online plagiarism checker *Turnitin* is therefore strongly recommended before paper submission; students will be given access accordingly. Please read the following guide for your writing: [All You Need to Know: A Thesis and Seminar Paper Guide](#)

VII. Schedule & Course Program

Activity	Date	Day	Platform	Time
Introduction and Theme discussion	22 April	Thu	ZOOM	10:30-12:00
First Individual Consultation	28 April	Wed	ZOOM	09:30-15:00
	29 April	Thu	ZOOM	09:30-15:00
Second Individual Consultation	12 May	Wed	ZOOM	09:30-15:00
	14 May	Fri	ZOOM	09:30-15:00
Presentations 1	1 June	Tue	ZOOM	10:00-13:00
Presentations 2	2 June	Wed	ZOOM	10:00-13:00
Presentations 3 [†]	4 June	Fri	ZOOM	10:00-13:00 [†]
First Submission Deadline	9 July	Fri	EMAIL	23:59
Second Submission Deadline [*]	30 July	Fri	EMAIL	23:59
Third Submission Deadline ^{**}	3 September	Fri	EMAIL	23:59

[†] Schedule will be adjusted according to the number of seminar participants

^{*} Only the following cases are allowed: (a) with medical certificate (“KR” i.e. krank), (b) failed to submit by the first deadline for whatever reason (“N.E.” i.e. nicht erschienen), or (c) submitted paper by the first deadline and consequently failed to achieve pass mark (i.e. “5,0”)

** In this semester special treatment is allowed due to the pandemic ([Freiversuchsregelung](#)). The third round is allowed only if you have not passed the first and the second rounds due to “KR”, “N.E.”, or “5,0”.

VIII. Essential Readings

- Autio et al. (2014): Entrepreneurial innovation: The importance of context. *Research Policy*, 43(7), 1097–1108.
- Baron, R. (2006). Opportunity Recognition as Pattern Recognition: How Entrepreneurs "Connect the Dots" to Identify New Business Opportunities. *Academy of Management Perspectives*, 20(1), 104–119.
- Rynes, S. & Gephart, R. (2004). From the Editors: Qualitative Research and the "Academy of Management Journal". *The Academy of Management Journal*, 47(4), 454–462.

IX. Themes, Topics and References

Five overarching themes, each consisting of several topics, are listed below. Some topics may be too broad to directly approach and if so you need to narrow it down to your own specific question (e.g., focus on a specific industry). In addressing your topic (question), you are expected to implement a quantitative approach (descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, and correlation AND/OR hypothesis testing such as *t*-test), a qualitative approach (literature review on journal articles AND/OR case study based on published documents and reports / corporate websites and social media / newsfeeds and press releases / transcribed interviews), or a mix of both approaches.

Please be aware that your choice from these approaches is not only a matter of your preference but is bounded by the data availability of your topic (question). An advanced statistical method (i.e. regression analysis) may be applied depending on the situation and your background knowledge but is not a standard expectation. A cross-country analysis is welcome regardless of whether explicitly stated in the given topic or not.

A link to an online poll will be announced via OLAT, available from April 23rd at noon 12:00 till April 24th at midnight 23:59 (first-come-first-serve basis). Maximum two students are allowed for each topic. Still, when two students choose the same topic, presentations and

seminar papers should be carried out individually; they are therefore encouraged to discuss the topic to facilitate understanding as well as sufficiently differentiate outputs.

1. Financing Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- **Proposed Topics:**

- [a] How do Japanese SMEs/start-ups finance themselves?
- [b] Crowdfunding: Does it work in Japan?
- [c] Who finances social entrepreneurship in Japan?

- **References:**

- [a-c] Hall, B. H. & Lerner, J. (2010). The financing of R&D and innovation. In *Handbook of the Economics of Innovation* (Vol. 1, pp. 609–639). North-Holland.
- [a] Lee, N., Sameen, H., & Cowling, M. (2015). Access to finance for innovative SMEs since the financial crisis. *Research Policy*, 44(2), 370–380.
- [b] Stanko, M. A. & Henard, D. H. (2017). Toward a better understanding of crowdfunding, openness and the consequences for innovation. *Research Policy*, 46(4), 784–798.
- [b] Hemer, J. (2011). A snapshot on crowdfunding. *Arbeitspapiere Unternehmen und Region*, No. R2/2011, Fraunhofer ISI, Karlsruhe
- [c] Moore, M. L., Westley, F. R., & Nicholls, A. (2012). The Social Finance and Social Innovation Nexus. *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 3(2), 115–132.

2. Social Entrepreneurship:

- **Proposed Topics:**

- [a] Women-found enterprise and Japan's entrepreneurial economy
- [b] Immigrant entrepreneurship in Japan: Opportunities and challenges
- [c] Is employee diversity linked to corporate innovation? A cross-country analysis
- [d] Workplace flexibility and innovative capability: A cross-country analysis

- **References:**

- [a] Estrin, S. & Mickiewicz, T. (2011). Institutions and female entrepreneurship. *Small Business Economics*. 37, 397–415.
- [a] Minniti, M. & Naudé, W. (2010). What Do We Know About The Patterns and Determinants of Female Entrepreneurship Across Countries?. *The European Journal of Development Research*, 22, 277–293.

- [b,c] Li, C., Isidor, R., Dau, L. A., & Kabst, R. (2018). The More the Merrier? Immigrant Share and Entrepreneurial Activities. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 42(5), 698–733.
- [b] Peroni, C., Riillo, C. A. F., & Sarracino, F. (2016). Entrepreneurship and immigration: evidence from GEM Luxembourg. *Small Business Economics*, 46, 639–656.
- [c] Østergaard, C. R., Timmermans, B., & Kristinsson, K. (2011). Does a different view create something new? The effect of employee diversity on innovation. *Research Policy*, 40(3), 500–509.
- [c] Van der Vegt, G. S. & Janssen, O. (2003). Joint Impact of Interdependence and Group Diversity on Innovation. *Journal of Management*, 29(5), 729–751.
- [d] Coenen, M. & Kok, R. A. W. (2014). Workplace flexibility and new product development performance: The role of telework and flexible work schedules, *European Management Journal*, 32(4), 564–576.
- [d] Scott, S. G. & Bruce, R. A. (1994). Determinants of Innovative Behavior: A Path Model of Individual Innovation in the Workplace. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 37(3), 580–607.

3. Environmental Entrepreneurship

- **Proposed Topics:**

- [a] Strategic responses of Japanese firms during the COVID-19 pandemic: Analysis of press releases
- [b] How has the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident affected the fossil fuel, nuclear, and renewable energy policies? A cross-country analysis
- [c] Transition towards wind power in Japan: Opportunities and challenges
- [d] Biodiversity as a contributor to innovation: Exploring the opportunity behind the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020

- **References:**

- [a] Archibugi, D., Filippetti, A., & Frenz, M. (2013). Economic crisis and innovation: is destruction prevailing over accumulation?. *Research Policy*, 42(2), 303–314.
- [a] Filippetti, A. & Archibugi, D. (2011). Innovation in times of crisis: National Systems of Innovation, structure, and demand. *Research Policy*, 40(2), 179–192.

- [b] Wittneben, B. B. F. (2012). The impact of the Fukushima nuclear accident on European energy policy. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 15(1), 1–3.
- [c] Wüstenhagen, R., Wolsink, M., & Bürer, M. J. (2007). Social acceptance of renewable energy innovation: An introduction to the concept. *Energy Policy*, 35(5), 2683–2691.
- [d] Czech B. (2008). Prospects for reconciling the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation with technological progress. *Conservation Biology*, 22(6), 1389–98.
- [d] Schubert, R. & Dietz, S. (2001). Environmental Kuznets Curve, Biodiversity And Sustainability. Discussion Papers 18748, University of Bonn, Center for Development Research (ZEF).
- [d] Shepherd D. A. & Patzelt H. (2011). The New Field of Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Studying Entrepreneurial Action Linking “What is to be Sustained” with “What is to be Developed.” *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 35(1), 137–163.

4. Entrepreneurship and National Innovation Systems

- **Proposed Topics:**

- [a] Is the Japanese entrepreneurial ecosystem innovative? A comparison with US and Germany
- [b] Is the Japanese entrepreneurial ecosystem innovative? A comparison with South Korea and China
- [c] Human resource strategies of Japanese firms against skill shortages

- **References:**

- [a-c] Edler, J. & Fagerberg, J. (2017). Innovation policy: what, why, and how. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 33(1), 2–23.
- [a,b] Fagerberg, J. & Srholec, M. (2008). National innovation systems, capabilities and economic development. *Research Policy*, 37(9), 1417–1435.
- [a,b] OECD (1997). National Innovation Systems. ([URL](#))
- [c] Ganelli, G. & Miake, N. (2017). Foreign Help Wanted: Easing Japan’s Labor Shortages. IMF Working Paper No. 15/181.
- [c] Haneda, S. & Ito, K. (2018). Organizational and human resource management and innovation: Which management practices are linked to product and/or process

innovation?. *Research Policy*, 47(1), 194–208.

- [c] Jones, R. S. & Seitani, H. (2019). Labour market reform in Japan to cope with a shrinking and ageing population. OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 1568, OECD Publishing, Paris.

5. Digital Entrepreneurship

- **Proposed Topics:**

- [a] Opportunities and challenges of AI strategies in Japan: A comparison with the US, Germany, China, or the UK
- [b] Geographic clustering of digital gaming industry in Japan
- [c] How is COVID-19 accelerating digital transformation in Japan?
- [d] Coexistence or replacement? Exploring the survival potential of fiat money and cryptocurrencies in Japan

- **References:**

- [a] Agrawal, A., Gans, J., & Goldfarb, A. (2019). Economic Policy for Artificial Intelligence. *Innovation Policy and the Economy*, 19, Lerner and Stern.
- [a] Agrawal, A., Gans, J., & Goldfarb, A. (2018). The Economics of Artificial Intelligence: An Agenda. University of Chicago Press. ([URL](#))
- [a] Ernst, E., Merola, R., & Samaan, D. (2019). Economics of artificial intelligence: Implications for the future of work. *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, ISSN 2193-9004, Sciendo, Warsaw, 9(1), 1–35.
- [b] Lehtonen, M. J., Ainamo, A., & Harviainen, J. T. (2019). The four faces of creative industries: visualising the game industry ecosystem in Helsinki and Tokyo. *Industry and Innovation*, 1–26.
- [b] Storz, C. (2008). Dynamics in innovation systems: Evidence from Japan's game software industry. *Research policy*, 37(9), 1480–1491.
- [c] Cromwell, J. & Kotelly, B. (2021). Framework for Innovation in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond. *MIT Sloan Management Review* ([URL](#))
- [c] Hinings, C., Gegenhuber, T., & Greenwood, R. (2018). Digital innovation and transformation: An institutional perspective. *Information and Organization*, 28, 52–61.
- [c] Sonenshein, S. (2014). How Organizations Foster the Creative Use of Resources. *Academy of Management*, 57, 814–848.

- [d] Fujiki, H. (2020). Who adopts crypto assets in Japan? Evidence from the 2019 financial literacy survey. *Journal of the Japanese and International Economies*, 58, 101107.
- [d] Harwick, C. (2016). Cryptocurrency and the Problem of Intermediation. *The Independent Review*, 20(4), 569–588.
- [d] Orcutt, M. (2019). Will people ditch cash for cryptocurrency? Japan is about to find out. *MIT Technology Review* ([URL](#))

X. Example List of Data Sources

Innovation (global)

- Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM): <https://www.gemconsortium.org/>
- Global Innovation Index: <https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/analysis-indicator>
- Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute (GEDI): <https://thegedi.org/>
- OECD Entrepreneurship and business statistics:
<https://www.oecd.org/sdd/business-stats/>
- OECD Entrepreneurship at a Glance:
https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/entrepreneurship-at-a-glance_22266941
- World Bank – Global Financial Inclusion (Global Findex) Database:
<https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/global-findex>
- World Bank – Global Investment Competitiveness Survey:
<https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2993>
- Industrial Research and Development Scoreboard:
<https://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/scoreboard/2019-eu-industrial-rd-investment-scoreboard>
- PATSTAT: <https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/business/patstat.html>

Innovation (Japan-specific)

- e-Stat: <https://www.e-stat.go.jp/en>
- Japanese National Innovation Survey (J-NIS):
https://www.nistep.go.jp/en/?page_id=2276
- Japan Self-Employment Data:
<https://tradingeconomics.com/japan/self-employed-total-percent-of-total-employed-wb-data.html>

- Japan HDX: https://data.humdata.org/search?groups=jpn&q=&ext_page_size=25
- Japan Patent Office: <https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/index.html>
- Japanese National Innovation Survey: https://www.nistep.go.jp/en/?page_id=2276
- TOYO KEIZAI CSR ONLINE: <http://www.toyokeizai.net/csr/english/>

Miscellaneous

- Google Trends: <https://trends.google.de/trends/?geo=JP>
- Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>
- Survey of International Social Surveys (ISSC):
<http://www.worldsocialscience.org/resources/survey-surveys/>
- The General Social Survey (GSS): <https://gss.norc.oregon.edu/>
- The European Social Survey (ESS): <https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>
- The East Asian Social Survey (EASS):
<https://www.eassda.org/modules/doc/index.php?doc=intro>
- The Japanese General Social Survey (JGSS):
https://jgss.daishodai.ac.jp/english/data/dat_top.html
- Gallup Poll: <https://www.gallup.com/home.aspx>
- Gensler Workplace Survey:
<https://www.gensler.com/research-insight/workplace-surveys>
- Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP): <https://data.cdp.net/>
- Renewable Energy Institute: <https://www.renewable-ei.org/en/>

XI. Statutory Declaration

A statutory declaration is required at the end of your written work (e.g. Seminar paper, Bachelor's or Master's thesis).

https://www.wiwi.uni-frankfurt.de/fileadmin/user_upload/dateien_pruefungsamt/Formulare_Merkblaetter/Ehrenwoertliche_Erklaerung.pdf