

Education Choice in Anticipation of Future Spouse

(邦題) 将来の結婚を考慮に入れた大学進学選択

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Abstract

While women surpassed men in college attainment in many countries, in Japan the four-year college enrollment rate of men is 7.4% points higher than that of women still in 2016. This article addresses the question what prevents Japanese women from attaining higher education. I show data implying that Japanese female college graduates may not be rewarded a large enough return to education, from both the labor and marriage market. Subsequently, I present some possible channels that might explain the lower aspiration of women for four-year college degree. Consideration of these causal channels motivates a structural dynamic discrete choice model to which I incorporate the marriage market expectation as well as the labor market. I present a model to estimate and the direction of counterfactual simulations to examine to what extent the anticipation of the marriage market outcome matters to the education decisions long before. These simulations will help draw proper education policy inference when the impact of marriage cannot be ignored.

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