



TITLE:

Changes in Unemployment Rates and Entry into Self-employment in Japan, Korea and Taiwan

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The purpose of this study is to clarify the relationship between changes in unemployment rates and entry into self-employment in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Since the 1980s, it has been asserted that selfemployment is a safety net for unemployed people during recessions and an increase in self-employment reduces the number of unemployed workers. However, very few studies examine the role of self-employment in those East Asian countries influenced by neoliberal policies. Therefore, we need research to discover the changes in career mobility that neoliberalism causes. Using unemployment data and the 2005 Social Stratification and Mobility data (SSM), we conduct the analysis using the discrete time logit model and clarify three main results: (1) an increase in unemployment rates does not promote entry into selfemployment in any country; (2) the impact of work experience in small-sized companies on entry into selfemployment is less than that before the 1990s in Japan and Taiwan; (3) the effect of fathers being selfemployed is weaker on children's entry into white-collar self-employment in Japan. These results demonstrate that self-employment has been changing under the neoliberalism process in East Asian countries. Therefore, we need further research to clarify the diversities within self-employment.