

*Globalization and Social Inequality  
in Sociological Textbooks:  
Views from East Asia*

*Introduction*



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*Behind the Session Proposal*



- ☞ “Globalization” as a Crucial Concept of Social Theory : Group on Social Theory, Sociology Committee, Science Council of Japan(SCJ)
- ☞ Social Inequality under Globalization: New Challenges



- ❧ Increasing Intellectual Exchange among East Asian Sociologists: Time for Collaboration?
- ❧ Attempts of JSPS's Asia-Africa Academic Platform Program, "Frontier of Comparative Studies of Asian Societies" (FCSAS Project)

## *Challenges of FCSAS Project*



- ❧ Challenging Three Year Project: Toward Establishing East Asian Sociology?
    - 1) Asian Sociology Workshop
    - 2) AsiaBarometer Workshop
- <http://ricas.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/aasplatform/>

## *Mission of this Session*



### ☞ Two Questions to be Tackled

- (1) Can we find some common “East Asian characteristics” of social inequality researches, or are they just an application of Western theories?
- (2) Is it possible for sociologists in East Asia to write a common textbook for sociology students? If not, why, and if yes, how?



### ☞ More Specific Topics to be Dealt with

- (1) How local sociological textbooks in East Asia are using Western/localized concepts on social inequality?
- (2) How sociological explanations of social inequality respect global/East Asian contexts in their textbooks?

## *Panelists*



Prof. Han Joon (Department of Sociology, Yonsei University)



Prof. Li Chunling (IOS, CASS)



Prof. Michael H.H. Hsiao (IOS, Academia Sinica)



Prof. Lui Tailok (Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong)

## *Commentator*



Prof. Sato Yoshimichi (Department of Sociology, Tohoku University)

## Session Schedule



- ☞ Introduction: 25 Min.
- ☞ Four Presentation: 25 Mins. Each
- ☞ Comment: 15 Mins.
- ☞ Discussion: 40 Mins.

## Japanese Textbooks: Three Cases



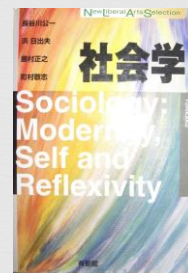
(1) *Do! Sociology*



(2) *Understanding Sociology*



(3) *Sociology: Modernity, Self and Reflexivity*



## Case (1) *Do! Sociology*



☞ Among 11 chapters, one chapter (Chap 5) is used for explaining inequality

「豊かな社会の格差と不平等 (Gap and Social Inequality in Affluent Society) 」

(1) Author: KIKKAWA, Toru (Prof. of Osaka Univ.)

(2) Contents:

1. 総中流社会から格差・不平等社会へ (From 'All Middle Class Society' to 'Gap and Unequal Society')

2. 現代の社会階層 (Contemporary Social Stratification)



(3) Key Words: 社会階級social class, 社会階層social stratification, 社会移動social mobility, 機会と結果の不平等 inequality of opportunity and inequality of consequence, 階層固定化・閉鎖化decrease of inter-class mobility

(4) Summary: The chapter explains historical change of social stratification since 1960s and maintains that economic development in Japan took place without changing inequality structure, which produces contemporary inequality between generations and classes.

## Case (2) *Understanding Sociology*



Among 7 chapters and 34 units, one chapter (one unit) is used for explaining inequality 「格差社会 (Gap Society)」

(1) Author: NISHIZAWA, Akihiko (Prof. of Toyo Univ.)

(2) Contents:

1. 格差社会論争 Debate on Gap Society
2. 階層 Social Stratification
3. 階級 Social Class
4. 構造的不均衡とイデオロギー Structural Imbalance and Ideology
5. 貧者の地獄 Hell of the Poor



(3) Key Words: 権力 power 威信 prestige 有名性 fame 階層 social stratification 階級 social class 社会移動 social mobility メリトクラシー meritocracy 資本家階級 capitalist class 労働者階級 working class 搾取 exploitation 剰余価値 surplus value 排除 exclusion 包摂 inclusion 福祉国家 welfare state (非) 正規雇用 (ir)regular employment 新しい社会運動 new social movement 新自由主義 neo-liberalism

(4) Summary: This unit explains basic concept of social inequality and asks the readers to think of the necessity to “overcome” the “trap of debate on gap society”

## Case (3) *Sociology: Modernity, Self and Reflexivity*



Among 16 chapters, one chapter (Chap14) is used for explaining inequality 「格差と階層 (Gap and Social Stratification)」

(1) Author: MACHIMURA, Takashi (Prof. of Hitotsubashi Univ.)

(2) Contents:

1. 格差・階層化現象をどう捉えるか How to Grasp Social Gap/Inequality

2. 近代化と階級・階層 Modernization and Social Class/Stratification

3. 格差・階層化の新段階 New Stage of Social Gap/Inequality

4. 格差・階層化分析を社会学に取り戻す Bringing Analysis of Social Gap/Inequality Back to Sociology



(3) Key Words:

格差・階層化 social gap/stratification 階級論 social class theory 成層論 social stratification theory 属性原理 ascription principle 業績原理 achievement principle 構造効果 structural effect 労働 labor フォーディズム Fordism 新国際分業 new international division of labor 構造調整 structural adjustment 非正規雇用 irregular employment 文化資本 cultural capital 新自由主義 neo-liberalism ハイパー・メリトクラシー hypermeritocracy ジニ係数 Gini coefficient 構造化 structuration 階級状況 class situation アンペイド・ワーク unpaid work 分割し、統治せよ Divide and rule 構造主義的マルクス主義 structuralist Marxism 再生産 reproduction トランスナショナルな資本家階級 transnational capitalist class アンダークラス underclass 社会的排除 social exclusion 都市下層 urban lower class 「失敗」という現実 reality of “failure” 階級の公共性 public-ness of class 鉄の檻 iron cage





(4) Summary: The chapter regards class/stratification as a key concept of sociology, explaining importance of looking at contemporary society from class/stratification aspects by citing such emerging phenomena as “collapse of middle class”, unemployed youth, working poor, b-polarization of class, increase of foreign workers and so on.

## *Summary and Points to be Discussed*



- (1) Localization of the Concept/Textbook
  - \*格差(Gap): Newly Emerging Sociological Concept?
  - \*非正規雇用 (Irregular Employment): Uniquely Japanese?
- (2) Social Inequality in Global/ East Asian Context
  - \*No Foreign Literature Mentioned in Reference in Japanese Textbooks
  - \*Similarity/Difference among East Asian Societies: Exceptional Case of 社会学 *Sociology*