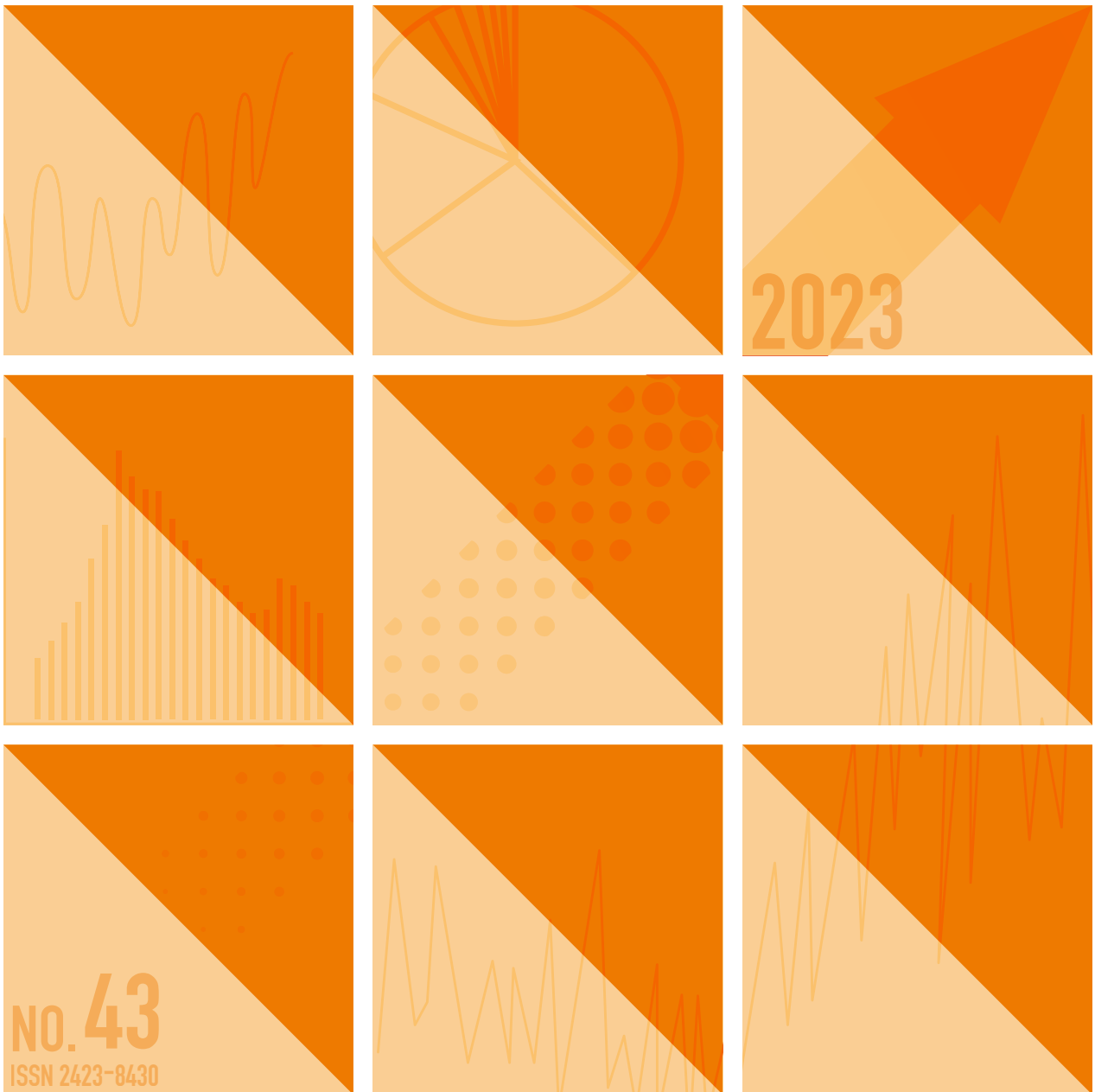


Information Bulletin of
The Union of National
Economic Associations in Japan



日本経済学会連合

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THE UNION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS IN JAPAN

日本経済学会連合

The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, established in 1950, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2020, as the sole nationwide federation of associations of scholars and experts on economics, commerce, and business administration. In order to obtain membership an association is subject to an examination of its academic work. As of 2023, the Union had a membership of 62 associations, as listed on pp. 101-121.

The aims and objectives of the Union are to support the scholarly activities of its member associations and to promote academic exchanges both among members themselves, and between Japanese and academic societies overseas. The main activities of the Union are: (1) the publication and distribution of academic material concerning Japanese economics and papers presented by member scholars, (2) the sending of members to overseas conferences, (3) the holding and supporting of international conferences in Japan, (4) providing financial assistance to member associations who invite foreign scholars to Japan, and (5) collecting information on activities of member associations and the issuing of a news bulletin.

The Union published in 1974 *Keizaigaku No Doko* (The Trend in Japanese Economics), based on a survey of economic studies undertaken in postwar Japan. A supplementary volume covering Japanese economic studies after 1974 was published in 1982.

The Union and the International Economic Association (IEA) jointly held the Fifth World Congress of the IEA in Tokyo from August 29 to September 3, 1978. The Union joined the International Institute of Public Finance in holding the Institute's 37th Congress at Tokyo in September 1981. The Union dispatched 20 member scholars to the Eighth World Congress of IEA held in India in 1986. Most recently the Union successfully sponsored the IEA Tokyo Round Table Conference on "Institutions in a New Dynamic Society" held between 15 and 17 September 1987, and hosted the 1996 IEA Tokyo Round Table Conference between 16 and 19 December, on the theme "The Institutional Foundation of Economic Development in East Asia." To celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, the Union held a special lecture meeting on May 25, 2000. Three lecturers were invited to speak on the theme, "The reforms that the 21st Century will bring to the world economy, the Japanese economy, and Japanese management."

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of this Association, a special lecture program was held at the Waseda University Okuma Auditorium on October 12, 2010.

Three lecturers were invited, each of whom spoke from his own perspective on how Japan's economy and Japanese business, in the midst of this once-in-a-century global recession, should solve their present plight and forge new routes for the future.

The Union has recently sponsored six Academic Forums. The first was held at Meiji University on September 26, 2015 on the theme of "Examining Japan's Human Globalization — Human Resources, Systems and International Competitiveness". The second was held at Waseda University on October 1, 2016 on the theme of "Directions for Post-TPP and World Trade Systems — Currents in mega-FTA". The Third was held at Waseda University, Waseda Campus on January 7, 2018 on the theme of "The National and International Contribution of Japanese Accounting". The fourth was held at Waseda University, Waseda Campus on September 29, 2018 on the theme of "Training for Entrepreneurs and Management Education". The fifth was held at Waseda University, Waseda Campus on December 7, 2019 on the theme of "How to Teach Economic History at Undergraduate level?" The sixth was held via Zoom on March 5, 2022 on the theme of "International Division of Labor among Firms in East Asia — on the Automobile Industry's Transition to Electric Vehicles". The proceedings of six events can be accessed at the Union's.

website: <https://www.ibi-japan.co.jp/gakkairengo/htdocs/>

The Union, established in 1950, has planned two projects in commemoration of its 70 years in existence: the web publication of "Towards Creation of a Sustainable Economic Society in the 21st Century", and an "Academic Channel" on YouTube. With the publication on the web in November, and the release of the YouTube channel in September, the Union is publicizing its own activities as well as communicating its academic role to society as a whole.

Following on from our web publication to commemorate our 70th anniversary, it has been decided to continue publishing on the web, under the revised title of *Economics and Business Forum*. Contributions are to be invited from among members. On YouTube, the *Academic Channel* will continue to be broadcast as before.

The Union celebrated in 1980 the 30th anniversary of its founding by launching a variety of activities, including the publication of The Information Bulletin.

Paul Snowden, Emeritus Professor of Waseda University, acts as editorial adviser.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY

The Socio-Economic History Society is one of the oldest and largest academic communities of economic historians in Japan. The Society was founded in 1930 as the first nationwide organization and began publishing its periodical *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* (*Socio-Economic History*) in the following year. As of the 31st of December 2022, it has 1,315 individual and 57 institutional members.

It was in the early 1920s that the professionalization of economic history as an academic discipline began. The world's first academic journal was probably the German *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* which appeared in 1923. It was followed by the British *Economic History Review* in 1926, the American *Journal of Economic and Business History* in 1927, and the French *Annales d'histoire économique et sociale* in 1929. The publication of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* was in this trend. In fact, in his inaugural address at the launch of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku*, Professor Yoshiro HIRANUMA (Waseda University), one of the founders of the Society wrote, "Every time I read the *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* published in Germany, I have long hoped that scholars in our country would also contribute their expertise and publicly release an academic journal of this kind" (1931, vol. 1, no. 1).

The number of members of the Society, more than 1,300, is comparable to the Economic History Society (UK) and the Economic History Association (US). Together with other related learned societies, the Business History Society and the Political Economy and Economic History Society, Japan's economic history population seems to be one of the largest in the world.

The main purpose of the Society is to promote studies in economic history and related fields such as legal history, political history, social history, and others. Two of the society's main activities are the publication of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* and the annual conference.

Currently, *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* is a quarterly journal, and each issue has three to four academic articles and many book reviews. In the five academic years between 2018 and 2022, it published 76 articles in total. The journal primarily features articles on the modern era, but it covers topics ranging from ancient times to the 20th century. While 48 out of the 76 articles are about the 20th century, 13 papers discuss early modern and medieval societies and economies. It is a strong tradition of the Society that the interests of our members are not confined to Japanese economic, social, or business history. While more than half of the articles (41) focus on Japan's experiences in the past, a significant number of the articles (35) discuss European, Asian, and African countries

and regions. Previously, discussions of foreign economic history largely centred on European countries such as England, Germany, and France. But lately, there has been a growing interest in the history of Asia and Africa. In fact, among the 76 papers published between 2018 and 2022, Asian and African economic history papers (19) outnumbered the papers on Europe and north America (16). Every two years, the Society awards a prize to outstanding papers from those published in *Shakai-Keizaishigaku*. The following is the list of recent award-winning papers, which shows the diversity and trend of topics discussed by our members.

Winners in 2018

UEDA, Akira (2016), “The reconstruction of cotton cultivation in the Ferghana region, 1917-1929” (vol. 82, no. 2).

TAGA, Yoshihiro (2017), “Introduction of silver for tax payment in 19th century Vietnam” (vol. 83, no. 1).

Winners in 2020

SAITO, Osamu (2018), “Japan’s Population in 1600: an attempt to reconstruct the history of population and economy in the seventeenth century” (vol. 84, no. 1).

MIDORIKAWA, Kazuo (2019), “Estimating the productivity of paddy fields in ancient and medieval Japan” (vol. 85, no. 2).

SAKAI, Kazuho (2018), “Unifying regional society through sharing a common fund: modern ownership and premodern inherited common property in the transitional period between premodern and modern Japan” (vol. 84, no. 2).

Winners in 2022

ANNAKA, Susumu (2020), “Delinquent land tax and suicide during the period of Matsukata Finance: Prefectural Panel Data Analysis” (vol. 86, no. 1).

OKUBO, Shohei (2020), “The Dutch East India Company and the Opium Society during the middle of the eighteenth century: the creation of opium privilege by the High Government of Batavia” (vol. 86, no. 3).

HASEGAWA, Tatsuro (2021), “Changes in management of forest commons during the Japanese high-growth period: a case study of Uruka in Hyogo Prefecture” (vol. 87, no. 1)

The annual conference is another important pillar of the Society. It follows a two-day format: one day is for individual presentations (six to seven parallel sessions of

five to seven papers each) and the other for panels (four to eight). A keynote lecture serves as an integral component of the conference. Following a triennial cycle, the President of the Society, a distinguished economic historian from abroad, and a scholar from an academically adjacent discipline are invited to deliver presentations.

The COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately led to the cancellation of the 89th annual conference scheduled for 2020 at Kobe University; it was held online in 2021 and 2022. This year (2023), the 92nd annual conference was co-organized by Kyushu University and Seinan Gakuin University and was held in person for the first time in four years. While the 2020 Kobe conference was cancelled, the same organizing committee continued to prepare for the 90th, which was the very first online conference in the Society's history, as many other academic organizations experienced. After the conclusion of the 90th conference, the committee conducted a survey among the delegates, and the results have been reported in *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* (vol. 87, no. 4 (February 2022)) together with their struggle to organize an online conference. This will be an important historical record for the future historians to understand how academic organizations have responded to the outbreak of epidemics.

The pandemic has accelerated the Society's shift toward digital solutions for its daily operations based on the experiences of the 2021 Kobe conference. Previously, speakers at our annual conferences were expected to distribute hard copies of handouts. To address this, the Kobe Committee established a file server, allowing participants to download the necessary digital files at their convenience. In addition, they implemented an online payment system for registration fees instead of money transfer through postal ATMs. At the conferences in 2021 and 2022, both the board meeting and general meeting, as well as individual presentations, were held via Zoom. These changes have affected our daily operations. The meeting of the editorial board of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku*, which is more frequent than the board meeting, has now completely shifted to an online format. As the Society has recently introduced an online membership management system, not only the conference registration fees but also the membership dues can now be paid online. In terms of operational efficiency, these changes can be considered a positive aspect of the pandemic.

Internationalization, or globalization, is also an important concern of the Society. A central forum for international collaboration among economic historians is the World Economic History Congress (WEHC). This international academic conference is organized every three years by the International Economic History Association (IEHA) and is held in various locations around the world. The 17th WEHC, held in Kyoto in 2015, saw active involvement from the Socio-Economic History Society. The current

president, Professor Tetsuji OKAZAKI (the University of Tokyo), was the chair of the local organizing committee, and most other committee members were also from the Society. Since its launch in 1960, the WEHC has been primarily held in Europe, with the exceptions of the 2002 congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the 2012 congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa. It was our great honour to host the first WEHC in Asia. Professor Okazaki also served as the president of the IEHA for the term from 2015 to 2018. At the time of the 17th WEHC, the Society provided bursaries for young members to present papers at the congress. A similar financial support program was established for the 18th WEHC in Boston in 2018, as well as for the 19th WEHC in Paris in 2022. This support will continue for the next WEHC, which is scheduled to be held at Lund University, Sweden, in 2025.

Another effort of internationalization is reflected in the format of the Society's quarterly journal. The format of article pages has been renewed since Volume 88 (academic year 2022) of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku*. While the journal accepts submissions only in Japanese, authors are required to provide English titles and 200-word abstracts. Previously, the English titles and abstracts were grouped together at the back of the journal, separate from the main articles. Starting with Volume 88, they have all been consolidated and are featured on the first page of each article along with a suggested citation style in English that includes Romanized notation of the original titles. The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) also appears on the first page. As downloading PDF files to read articles has become more common than reading them in booklet form, this consolidation of the bibliographic information has greatly improved the accessibility for non-Japanese readers, especially for those who do not read Japanese but know some Romanized expressions.

Fostering young researchers also matters. Along with bursaries to attend the WEHC and deliver presentations, the Society has held its Next Tide Workshop annually. Aiming to offer PhD students and other young researchers an opportunity to present their work-in-progress papers and receive academic and practical feedback, the Workshop started in 2011. Since 2018, we have conducted it in a new format. Each candidate is now required to submit a full paper, on which a senior researcher in the field is obliged to read carefully and provide constructive feedback. This intensive one-day workshop allows young researchers to share tips and best practices for paper writing and encourages them to submit their papers to *Shakai-Keizaishigaku*.

In 2020, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of our society, and published an encyclopaedia as an anniversary project (The Socio-Economic History Society ed. (2021), *Shakai-Keizaishigaku Jiten (Encyclopaedia of Socio-Economic History)*,

Maruzen). The Encyclopaedia is divided into 16 chapters and contains 298 entries with 10 short articles. While it is about history of economy and society, the chapter structure is rather thematic than chronological. Chapter 1 is about the history of socio-economic history, followed by five chapters on aspects of economic activities (trade and commerce, production and technology, consumption, finance, and employment and labor). Chapters 7, 8 and 9 focus on livelihood of people covering topics of social welfare, medical care, public health, families, gender, etc., and Chapters 10 and 11 address transport and migration. Chapter 12 is specifically for environmental issues of natural resources, climate, and energy. Chapters 13 and 14 are about political and spatial entities: cities and the state. The last two chapters discuss relations between nations, including wars, international orders, and development programs. More than 240 contributors provide authoritative information on a wide range of subjects based on their expertise. This serves as a useful guidebook for young researchers while also deepening the general public's understanding of societies and economies in the past.

Socio-economic history is an academic discipline in between humanities and social sciences. Providing a platform for exchange of ideas by the publication of *Shakai-Keizaishigaku* and the annual conference as well as encouraging international interaction and fostering young researchers, it is hoped that the Society will continue to play a significant role for the development of this interdisciplinary field.

(Chiaki YAMAMOTO, Graduate School of Economics, Osaka University)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY

社会経済史学会

- Established: 1930
- Number of Members: 1,400
- Representative: Tetsuji OKAZAKI (University of Tokyo)
- Publication: *Shakai Keizai Shigaku (Socio-Economic History)* — quarterly
- Shakai Keizaishi Gakkai (Socio-Economic History Society)

c/o Professor M.SHIZUME

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[http\(s\)://sehs.ssoj.info/](http(s)://sehs.ssoj.info/)

The next annual meeting will be held at Tokyo Metropolitan University on May 11-12, 2024.

THE JAPAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

一般社団法人 日本統計学会

- Established: 1931
- Number of Members: 1,484
- President: Nobuhiko TERUI (Tokyo University of Science)
- Publication: *Journal of the Japan Statistical Society (Japanese)* — biannually
- The Japan Statistical Society

c/o Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis,

Nogaku Shorin Building 5F, 3-6, Kanda-Jinbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0051, Japan

e-mail: shom@jss.gr.jp

<http://www.jss.gr.jp/>

The next Spring meeting will be held at Seijo University in March, 2024.

The next annual meeting will be held at Tokyo University of Science in September, 2024.

TRANSCULTURAL MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

異文化経営学会

- Established: 2003
- Number of Members: Individual 404, Institutional 9, Supporting member 1
- President: Emiko MAGOSHI (J. F. Oberlin University)
- Publication: *Transcultural Management Review*
- Secretary General, Transcultural Management Society

c/o Professor Toshikazu TAKAHASHI,

Faculty of Business Administration, Rissho University,

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<https://ibunkakeiei.com/>

The next meeting will be held at Waseda University (International Conference Center) on May 26 and November 10, 2024.

This Information Bulletin is designed to serve as an introduction of the academic activities of member associations of the Union to economic societies throughout the world. The Bulletin is now available online on the Union's own website as well as on the platforms of J-STAGE and EBSCOhost.

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