

Gender Equality and Transition to the Second Birth in Japan

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Abstract

How gender equality relates to fertility becomes a central concern for population scholars as well as policy makers in developed countries. Both a theory and empirical studies from Europe and the United States suggest that achieving high levels of gender equality within household responsibilities can also lead to high fertility in the societies where gender gaps in education and employment is small. Using “Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century”, this study provides firm evidence on the relationship between couples’ participations in domestic work and the transition to second birth in the first quinquennium of the 21st century Japan.