

Oct 22-Final

**Reforming Financial and Employment Systems in Japan, East Asia, and
Europe:
Institutional Change, Corporate Diversity, and Economic Instability**
International Workshop

University of British Columbia (Vancouver),
Institute of Asian Research
October 31st & November 1st

With the support of: CNRS, Fondation France-Japon de l'EHESS, Oxford University, Waseda University, and the Nissan Canada-Japan Trade Relations Research Endowment (at IAR-UBC)

Financial and employment systems in East Asia and Europe have experienced decades of reforms (liberalization, deregulation, privatization, etc.). Mainly inspired by the US experience, their aim was to improve the efficiency of financial and labor institutions by giving more place to market mechanisms.

Although the importance of institutional changes is not the same in all these countries and is still sometimes a matter of debate, the process of liberalization did not lead always to the expected results:

As a whole, we do not observe a straightforward convergence towards the US system. Instead, within each system, an increasing corporate diversity has accompanied the process of liberalization. In many cases, reforms did not lead to an overall improvement of efficiency but rather to more economic instability.

By mobilizing the analytical tools of financial economics, political economy, comparative institutional economics, and economic history, the aim of this workshop is investigate the reasons of these paradoxical institutional and corporate changes.

This workshop is a part of the research project "Understanding institutional change in Asia: A comparative perspective with Europe" coordinated by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Freie Universität Berlin, Oxford University and the University of British Columbia.

Conference Organizers: Sebastien Lechevalier (EHESS), Hideaki Miyajima (Waseda), Yves Tiberghien (UBC).

GROUND RULES FOR THE WORKSHOP:

- Presenters are asked to introduce their research questions and their arguments in the first 3 minutes. They must address the conference questions and themes in this introduction.
- Presenters are strictly limited to 20 minutes for their presentations. The panel chairs will give them 5mn and 2mn notices, before cutting them at the 20mn mark without exception. An award will be given to presenters who manage to finish under 15 minutes.
- Discussants are limited to 10mn for their remarks.
- Since the primary goal of this workshop is to develop a research program with focused questions and coherent approaches, the emphasis is put on discussion among all participants and with the audience.

Thursday, October 30th at 18:00 Welcome dinner (near hotel)

Day 1: Friday 31st October

Session 1 (9:30-12:30) Changing institutions and Corporate Governance

Mari Sako (Oxford Univ.) Corporate governance for Start-ups in Japan

Kenji Kushida (Stanford University): Foreign Multinational Corporations and Japan's Evolving Model of Syncretic Capitalism.

Comments: Sebastien Lechevalier (EHESS) and Yves Tiberghien (UBC)

Ogawa, Ryo and Miyajima Hideaki (Waseda) "The changing role of annual shareholder meetings in Japan"

Kubo, Katsuyuki (Waseda) "Corporate governance change and employment adjustment: the case of Japan"

Comments: Takeo Hoshi (Stanford) and Masao Nakamura (UBC)

Public Roundtable (2:00-4:30): Abenomics Two Years In: Successes, Failures, and Transformations.

Chairman: Joseph Caron (former Canadian Ambassador to Japan, China, and India)

Panelists (initial remarks under 8mn each):

Hoshi, Takeo (Stanford)

Kushida Kenji (Stanford)

Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS)

Miyajima Hideaki (Waseda)

Sako Mari (Oxford)

Yves Tiberghien (UBC)

Discussion and Q&A with the audience

Reception at IAR: 4:30-6:00

Waterfront dinner for workshop presenters and discussants (Granville Island)

Day 2: Saturday (November 1st)

Session 2 (9:30-12:15) Corporate finance issues: network finance and ownership

Nakamura, Masao (UBC): “Firms’ Dividend Smoothing Behavior and Corporate Governance Reforms in Japan”

Ogura, Yoshiaki (Waseda University) : “Network-Motivated Lending Decisions”

Comments: Katsuyuki Kubo (Waseda University) and Ilan Vertinsky (Sauder, UBC)

Miyajima, Hideaki, and Ryo Ogawa (Waseda University) “Does Ownership really matter? The Role of Foreign Investors on Corporate Governance in Japan“

Comments: Ilan Vertinsky (Sauder, UBC)

Lunch 12 : 15 -13 : 30

Session 3 (1:30 - 4:20 pm) Historical and comparative perspective

Angelo Riva (EBS Paris & PSE): "Data for Financial History Database: old sources, new questions"

Jérémy Ducros (EHESS): "The Lyon Stock Exchange: A Struggle for Survival (1866-1914)"

Comments: Hideaki Miyajima (Waseda) and Yasuhiro Arikawa (Waseda)

Adrienne Sala (EHESS) " From Moneylenders to Banks: The Political Economy of consumer credit in Japan"

Thomas Lagoarde-Segot (KEDGE Business school): "Informational efficiency in the Tokyo Stock Exchange, 1931-1940" (co-authored with Jean-Pascal Bassino (IAO))

Comments: Yoshiaki Ogura (Waseda) and Takeo Hoshi (Stanford)

4:30 pm – 5: 30 pm:

Steering Committee meeting between partner universities

Logistical Point Persons:

EHESS: "Amo Kae" kae.amo@ehess.fr & "Daimaru Ken" ken.daimaru@ehess.fr

UBC: Nagao Yoko (yoko.nagao@ubc.ca) and Kerry Ross (Kerry.ross@ubc.ca)