Since then, opinions about his agenda have continued to fluctuate widely as on a roller coaster, from upbeat to downbeat. In a work joint with Sébastien Lechevalier, we argue that this negative opinion is unwarranted for at least two reasons: (1) Abenomics led to encouraging results in some areas, such as exiting deflation, but the economic growth performance remains erratic. […] (2) Abenomics remains an innovation in the context of recent Japanese economic policymaking, with a better coordination of policy tools (fiscal, monetary, structural). […] The main shortcoming of Abenomics – and the one that will ultimately makes the difference between success and failure - is that they neglect to address one of the causes of the Japanese long slowdown such as inequalities or income distribution. For example, with real wages nearly flat in a context of increasing taxation, private consumption has remained at a standstill for the past four years. The benefits for households of a declining unemployment rate are limited by the high duality of the labor market. Meanwhile, the benefits of increased trade integration are now reduced in the wake of the arrival of the Trump administration in the U.S.: while its future policies are highly uncertain, the campaign rhetoric was inward-looking, protectionist, and decidedly hostile to the TPP. This might be an opportunity for Mr. Abe to rebalance his agenda and reboot Abenomics by dealing with inequalities and income stagnation.

The entire version is available on our website: http://ffj.ehess.fr/lettre_2016_4.html
Cahier des chercheurs / 研究者日記

Enquête ethnographique sur le modèle familial des migrants japonais en France

Miyako Hayakawa

『フランスにおける日本人移民の家族モデルに関する民族学的調査』 早川 美也子

En troisième année de thèse en anthropologie, l’objectif de mon travail doctoral consiste à analyser les rapports sociaux de genre dans la famille japonaise contemporaine, notamment la persistance du patriarcat dans la vie courante des Japonais. Je m’intéresse particulièrement aux pratiques quotidiennes entreprises par les expatriés japonais en France, afin de pouvoir analyser également les transformations des normes dans le temps.

Souvent appelé comme « ie », ce système patriarcal d’origine confucéenne et bouddhiste qui vise à assurer la pérennité de l’unité patrilinéaire est caractérisé par la position dominante du mari/père sur les autres membres de famille dans le foyer, accompagné par une forte inégalité homme-femme, ainsi que la division sexuelle du travail.

Cette institution, prescrite dans l’ancien code civil de 1898, a été légalement supprimée. Elle a été remplacée par un modèle familial égalitaire après la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, ainsi que la nouvelle constitution japonaise de 1946 garantit l’égalité des sexes devant la loi.

Depuis lors, la famille connaît des métamorphoses importantes dans le pays : l’apparition de la famille nucléaire tout en conservant le modèle de famille élargie grâce à la croissance importante de la population d’après-guerre ; le modèle de standardisation de la femme au foyer dans le ménage dans les années 1970 et la diminution de celui-ci après la crise pétrolière ; la chute importante du taux de natalité, de 4,63 en 1947 à 1,43 en 2013 ; l’augmentation du nombre de célibataires.[…]

Pour lire l’article :
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My current research topic is comparison of the feminist movement for the liberation of the oral contraception in 1960-70s in France and in Japan. These countries have different history in the reproductive policies. Japanese government legalized abortion in 1948, and oral contraception in 1999, while French government legalized the former in 1975, and latter in 1967. Why did they have the different policies? These differences are what made me interested in the feminist movement. The most of the Japanese feminists were not propelling the use of the oral contraception, but the French feminists were. I’m researching why they choose opinions differently, and what was the philosophical and sociological bases for their choices.

Since my arrival at EHESS in the end of March 2016, I have conducted the research project on the innovation of electric vehicles in Europe as Valeo research fellow. This project has several aspects such as diffusion of innovation and infrastructure, development of new product architecture, and ecosystems of the automotive industry. The velocity of change in the industry is very rapid in recent years especially in Europe. Thanks to its location and network of FFJ-EHESS, I can grasp the dynamism of innovation here in Paris.

During my first two months at FFJ, I have conducted a few research projects. These projects are related to the effective lower bound (ELB) on nominal interest rates, which is especially relevant to the conduct of monetary policies after the financial crisis. One of them is about the credibility of central banks when the short-term nominal interest rate is at the ELB. Credibility is one of the most important issues faced by central banks conducting unconventional monetary policies, such as forward guidance policies, in recent years.

Currently, I am carrying out a study concerning the innovation policy for SMEs in Japan. Topics include to evaluate some kinds of policy effects on firms’ performance and on star inventors who collaborate with academia. To analyze patent data at the micro-level, I am conducting disambiguation of inventors’ names. In addition, I am starting the comparative study between French and Japanese innovation systems in terms of the role of public research institutions and the rate and direction of changes in industry and technology.