Dynamics of Ideology and Institution

Probable Scenarios for Changes in Beliefs about Gender and Family in Japan

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Synopsis

Aim: To develop methods for analysis of ideology

Method: Ideology-institution dynamics with causal modeling (IIDCM)

Case study: Current population policies in Japan

Outcome: Understanding diverging future scenarios and their turning points

1. Two traditions (or extremes) for studies of ideology

Struggles between ideologies as fixed patterns of thinking:

No theoretical resource to break down an ideology into its components. **[Slide 6]**

Policy science: How to make policy decisions based on scientific evidence.

Policymakers can rationally choose the best policy to achieve the goal. **[Slide 7]**

2. IIDCM   **[Slide 9]**

Ideology as a system of interdependent beliefs classified into three categories:

Model: beliefs about facts (how the society is)

Criterion: beliefs about ideals (how the society should be)

Rule: beliefs about norms (what we should do)

3. Implication to future scenarios

IIDCM describes interdependency among beliefs. It can thereby specify intrinsic constraints in ideology as well as turning points where future scenarios diversify.   **[Slide 12]**

4. Case study: population policies and gender/family institution in Japan

Work life balance: Women's continuous career was expected, but has not been realized. **[Slide 13]**

Child benefit: In contradiction to the hegemonic belief of parent duty to support children. **[Slide 15]**

The new family planning: Based on pseudoscience. Justification will therefore be difficult. **[Slide 17]**

Future turning points [Slide 20]:

- Whether majority of women continue their employment.
- Whether the society redefines parents' responsibility to support children as secondary.
- Whether the society recognizes it is difficult to go back to standardized lifecourse in 1970s.

Abstract

This paper put forward a proposal for elaborating ideology analysis. In parallel with development of empirical analysis to specify causality in the real social phenomena, we should develop methods for analysis of ideology to explore dynamics of what we perceive and think about the real society. Using them in combination, we obtain a powerful tool to foresee the future.

This paper proposes a framework of ideology-institution dynamics with causal modeling (IIDCM). IIDCM defines ideology as a system of interdependent beliefs classified into three categories: beliefs about facts (how the society is), about ideals (how the society should be), and about norms (what we should do). A feedback cycle is assumed as follows. We have beliefs about facts based on our observations of society. We have also beliefs about ideals as criteria to evaluate whether the social condition is good or bad. Such criteria and beliefs about facts jointly justify a norm to realize a better society. If the norm is institutionalized, it determines people's action and brings social outcomes. And if we observe the social outcomes through empirical analysis, it will make changes in our beliefs about facts.

IIDCM theorizes relationships among ideology, institution, and people's action. We can write a scenario and select the cast to predict social changes, using IIDCM as a basic framework. This paper takes an example of fertility issue in Japan. Political responses to low fertility in Japan since late-1980s have been too conservative to set ideological changes about gender and family. However, facing the population shrinking, the government (and people) are now seriously recognizing the necessity of drastic social changes. We can write probable scenarios, with the framework of IIDCM, according to what policy will be selected and how public opinion will change hegemonic ideology related to gender and family. (See http://tsigeto.info/iidcm/ for details)

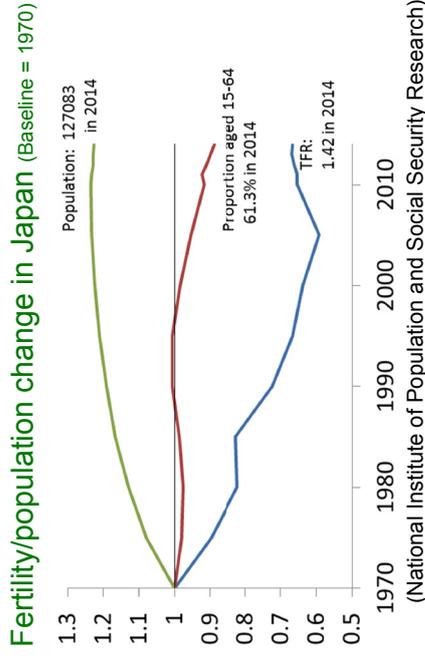# Question

Changes in **gender/family institution**

- Life event patterns
- Couple specialization
- Parental duty

by **population policies?**

Fertility/population change in Japan (Baseline = 1970)

Population: 127083 in 2014

Proportion aged 15-64 61.3% in 2014

TFR: 1.42 in 2014

1.3 1.2 1.1 1 0.9 0.8 0.7 0.6 0.5

1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

(National Institute of Population and Social Security Research)

Policies in question

- Work-life balance (WLB)
- Child benefit
- New family planning (sex education)

Tradition 1:

Struggles between ideologies
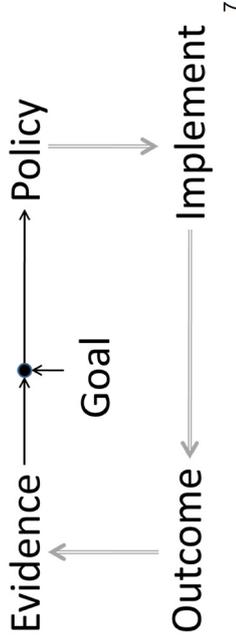as **fixed patterns of thinking**

Gender norms vs. **Anti-discrimination**

Familism vs. **Individualism**

Patriarchy vs. **Social contract**

Tradition 2:

Perspective of policy science

Evidence → Goal → Policy → Implement → Outcome → Evidence

Reflexive policy research

- Normative settings
- Socially constructed "scientific evidences"
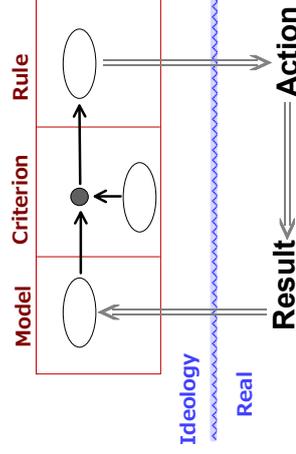- Unexpected outcomes

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IIDCM

Ideology-
Institution
Dynamics with
Causal
Modeling

http://tsigeto.info/iidcm/

Model | Criterion | Rule

Ideology / Real

Result ⇒ Action

Model | Criterion | Rule

Institution

Causal modeling

Ideology / Real

Result / Action
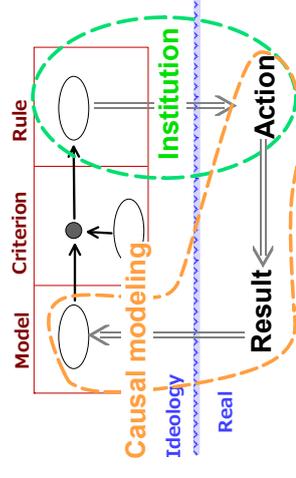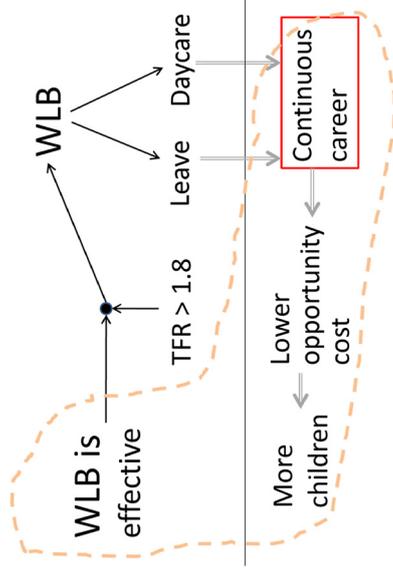
Focuses for our future

- Intrinsic constraints
- Side effects of policies
- Diverging scenarios
- Turning points?

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Work-life balance

WLB

WLB is effective

TFR > 1.8

Leave → Daycare → Continuous career

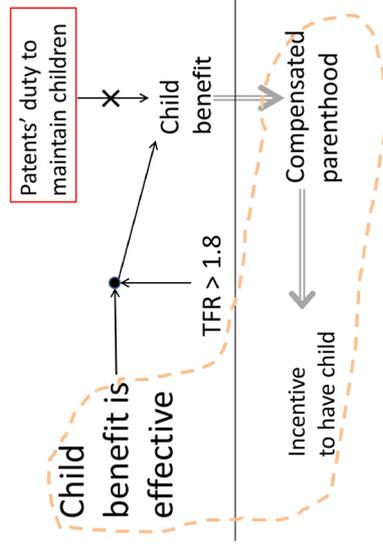More children ← Lower opportunity cost

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Why ineffective?

- Women want to continue career: **30%**
- Women continuing career: **20%**
- Children (aged 1-2) in day-care: **30%**

Policy change with negative evidences?

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Child benefit

Parents' duty to maintain children ✗ Child benefit

Child benefit is effective

TFR > 1.8

Compensated parenthood

Incentive to have child

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Essentialism on parenthood

Unlimited parental duty of supporting immature children is essential for parent-child relationship

(Nakagawa Zen'nosuke 1928)

Lessons from unsuccessful 2010-2011 reform of universalized child benefit

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The new family planning

Education on fecundity etc.

Sex education is effective

TFR > 1.8

Rational life plan

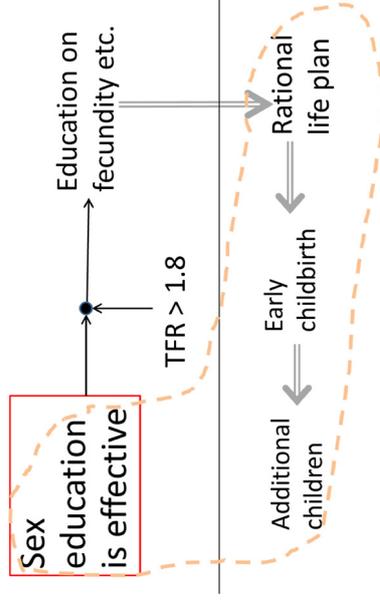Early childbirth

Additional children

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Pseudoscience-based policy

- Manipulated data on women's fecundity
- Exaggeration of people's lacking medical knowledge
- By mainstream academics since 2012
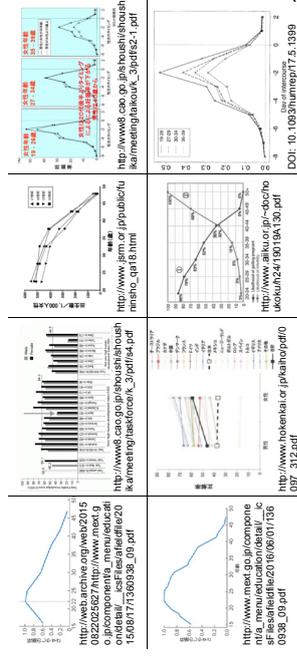
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Manipulated charts

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Turning points

WLB: Women's continuous employment

Child benefit: Parental duty

Family planning: Back to standardized lifecourse in 1970s

Other policies?

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