

## Locating Family in the Gender Equality Politics

A focus on economic situation after divorce in Japan

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<http://tsigeto.info/17y>

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## Ideology & social sciences

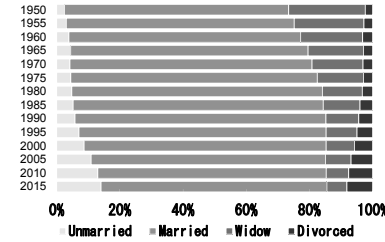
Ideology = system of beliefs on

- **Fact** : How the society is
- **Value**: How the society should be
- **Norm**: What should we do

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## Trend in marital status in Japan

Population Census 1950-2015,  
Women aged 30-74



## National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ)



- ★ Detailed information on kinship and life events
- ★ National representative samples: 1998, 2003, 2008 (NFRJ98, NFRJ03, NFRJ08)
- ★ Huge number: 473, 494, 463 divorced

<http://nfrj.org>

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## Annual Household Income

**NFRJ98: on page 5/25**

問15 去年1年間のお宅の収入(生計をともにしている家族全員の収入の合計)は、税込みでは次の中のどれに近いですか。[Income during the previous year of your household, including tax (choose the nearest)]

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 収入はなかった    | 6 600~799万円台   |
| 2 100万円未満    | 7 800~999万円台   |
| 3 100~199万円台 | 8 1000~1199万円台 |
| 4 200~399万円台 | 9 1200万円以上     |
| 5 400~599万円台 | 10 わからない       |

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**NFRJ03: on page 5/18**

問8 去年1年間のお宅(生計をともにしている家族)の収入は、税込みでは次の中のどれに近いですか。他の家族の方の収入も含めてお答えください。(〇は1つだけ) [Income during the previous year of your household, including tax (choose the nearest)]

- |              |                 |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 収入はなかった    | 7 500~599万円台    | 13 1100~1199万円台 |
| 2 100万円未満    | 8 600~699万円台    | 14 1200~1299万円台 |
| 3 100~199万円台 | 9 700~799万円台    | 15 1300~1399万円台 |
| 4 200~299万円台 | 10 800~899万円台   | 16 1400~1499万円台 |
| 5 300~399万円台 | 11 900~999万円台   | 17 1500~1599万円台 |
| 6 400~499万円台 | 12 1000~1099万円台 | 18 1600万円以上     |

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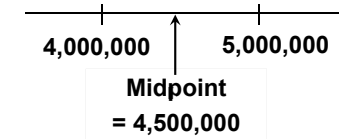
**NFRJ08: on page 23/24**

問18 去年1年間のお宅(生計をともにしている家族)の収入は、税込みでは次の中のどれに近いですか。他の家族の方の収入も含めてお答えください。(〇は1つだけ) [Income during the previous year of your household, including tax (choose the nearest)]

- |              |                 |                 |
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| 6 300~399万円台 | 13 1000~1099万円台 |                 |
| 7 400~499万円台 | 14 1100~1199万円台 |                 |

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## Income of the previous year



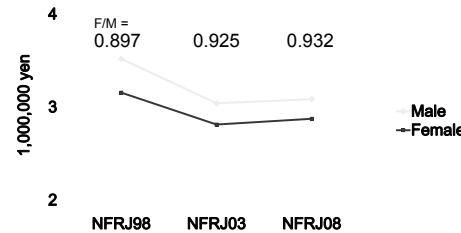
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## Equivalent Income (EI)

$$EI = \frac{\text{Annual household income}}{\sqrt{N \text{ of household member}}}$$

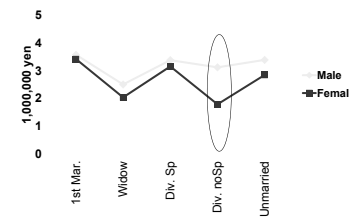
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## Gender Gap in EI



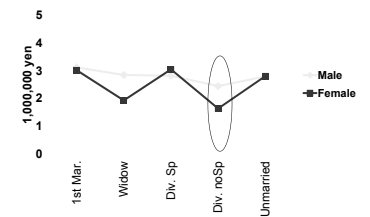
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## Marital history and EI: NFRJ98



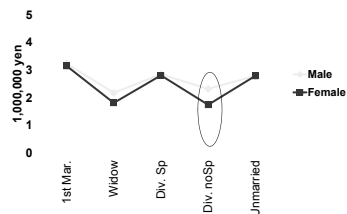
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## Marital history and EI: NFRJ03



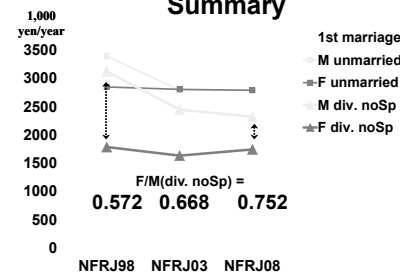
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## Marital history and EI: NFRJ08



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## Summary



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## Marital History and Gender Gap

- **Unmarried / Married** ..... **No gap**
- **Divorced / Widowed** ..... **Great gap**

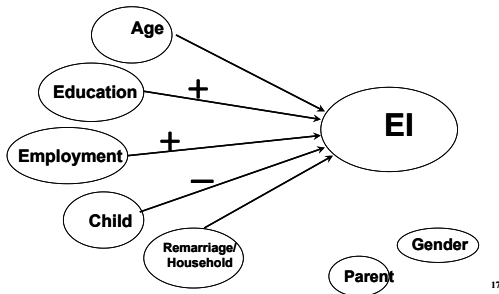
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## Regression (divorced)

- Independent variables :
- Age
  - Education
  - Spouse
  - One-person household
  - Co-residing parent
  - **Co-residing child under 13**
  - **Continuous regular employment**

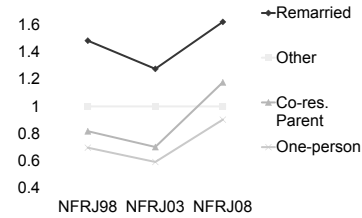
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## Result



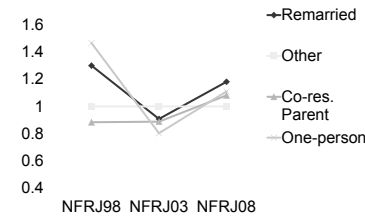
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## Effect of remarriage (female)



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## Effect of remarriage (male)



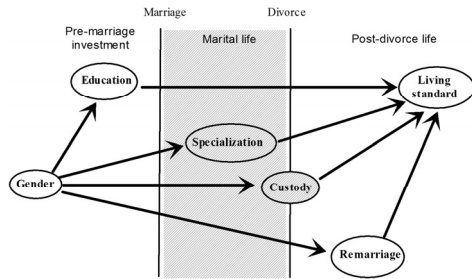
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## Findings

- ✓ Female EI is 10% lower than male
- ✓ Mainly caused by widowed/divorced
- ✓ **4 factors** of gender gap after divorce

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## Factors of post-divorce gap



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## Gender equality and family

- **Fact** : Gender gap after divorce caused by marital life
- **Value**: Gender equality
- **Norm**: What reform in family law?

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## Gender-equal policy

- 1985**: Ratification of CEDAW
- 1996**: *Vision of gender equality*
- 1999**: Basic Law for Gender-Equal Society
- 2000**: *Basic plan for gender equality* (Revision in every 5 years)

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## Vision of gender equality (1996)

- 1 – (1) .....without being restricted by “gender”, a social and cultural constraint.....
- 1 – (2) – c. ....Greater and deeper awareness of gender-sensitive perspective

[http://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/about\\_danjo/lbp/basic/toshin-e/part1.htm#P1](http://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/about_danjo/lbp/basic/toshin-e/part1.htm#P1)

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## 2nd Basic plan for gender equality (2005)

2 – 2. ....it is not desired to deny traditional culture using the term “gender free”

[translation is mine]

[http://www.gender.go.jp/about\\_danjo/basic\\_plans/2nd/pdf/all.pdf](http://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/basic_plans/2nd/pdf/all.pdf)

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## 4th Basic plan for gender equality (2015)

2 – II – 6. ....gender equality based on understandings of biological differences between sexes

[translation is mine]

Prejudice on sex differences is mentioned only for fixed gender roles, as a legacy of the high economic growth in 1960s

[http://www.gender.go.jp/about\\_danjo/basic\\_plans/4th/pdf/print.pdf#6](http://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/basic_plans/4th/pdf/print.pdf#6)

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## Minimum presence of family issues

No chapter for family issues in these governmental documents

Problems of one-parent family, impoverished divorced women, and forced surname changes are mentioned, but not systematically

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## Debate on family in 20th century

Traditional: Stem family (*ie*) system as a company

vs.

Modern: Nuclear family as a unit of altruism

中川 善之助 (1928) “親族的扶養義務の本質 (1)”. 法学新報. 38(6) (Nakagawa Zen'nosuke 1928)

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## Anti-liberal reforms in Japanese divorce system

Traditional: Unilateral no-ground



Modern: Bilateral no-ground + Unilateral ground-based

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## Consensual divorce

Currently:

90% ..... by mutual consent (no legal intervention)

9% ..... mediated by court

1% ..... judgement by court

→ anti-liberal, equity-oriented debates

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## Typical arguments

本沢 巳代子 (1998) 離婚給付の研究. 一粒社 (Motozawa Miyoko 1998)

- Earning capacity due to specialization
  - Burden to bring up legitimate child
  - Disease caused/worsened by marital life
- **Slow implementation**

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## Conclusion

Family law reform is necessary for gender equality.

However, no systematic examination of the family system to achieve distributive justice in family.

Both traditional / modern ideology suppress discourses for equality.

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