

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

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GENDER: Male

CITIZENSHIP: Japan

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

2005-2009 B.A. Economics, The University of Tokyo
2009-2011 M.A. Economics, The University of Tokyo
2011-2013 MRes Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

DOCTORAL STUDIES: London School of Economics and Political Science

DATES: 2013 - present

THESIS TITLE: Essays in Development Economics

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: June/2017

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Professor Robin Burgess (Supervisor)
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Development Economics

Secondary Fields: Economic History, Political Economy, Labor Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2010-2011 Topics on Econometrics (Graduate-level program evaluation)
2013-2016 EC220

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

2009-2011 Research Assistant to Professor Yasuyuki Sawada
2009-2011 Project Member at Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization

LANGUAGES

Fluent Spoken
English, Japanese (Native)

Fluent Written
English, Japanese (Native)

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2016 Nominated for Moriguchi Prize (the best paper award for Japanese Economics PhD students *by Institute of Social and Economic Research at Osaka University*)
2016-2017 Joint Research Program, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University (with Tetsuji Okazaki, Yukinobu Kitamura, and Ken Miura)
2016 Nominated for LSESU Student Led Teaching Excellence Awards
2015-2016 The Murata Science Foundation Research Grant (with Ken Miura)
2015-2016 Joint Research Program, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University (with Yasuyuki Sawada, Yukinobu Kitamura, and Ken Miura)
2013-2014 LSE Scholarship
2011-2016 The Nakajima Foundation, Scholarship for Studying Abroad
2011 Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

PRESENTATIONS:

2016-2017: 15th EUDN PhD Workshop on Development Economics, NEUDC, SAEe
2015-2016: Osaka University, Tsukuba University, Kindai University, Kyoto Summer Workshop on Applied Economics
2014-2015: Kyoto Summer Workshop on Applied Economics, Hayami Conference (Tokyo, Japan), Hitotsubashi University
2012-2013: Kyoto Summer Workshop on Applied Economics
2010-2011: Japanese Economic Association

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

“Railroads, Technology Adoption, and Modern Economic Development: Evidence from Japan”

Railroad access can accelerate the technological progress in the industrial sector and therefore induce structural change and urbanization, the two common features of modern economic growth. I examine this particular mechanism in the context of Japanese railroad network expansion and modern economic growth in the late 19th century and early 20th centuries. By digitizing a novel data set that measures the use of steam engines at the factory level, allowing me to directly observe the diffusion of steam power, I analyze the effect of railroad access on the adoption of steam power. To overcome the endogeneity problem, I determine the cost-minimizing path between destinations, and use this to construct an instrument for railroad access. I find that railroad access led to an increased adoption of steam power by factories, which in turn reallocated labor from the agricultural to the industrial sector, thereby inducing structural change. Railroad network also broke mean reversion in population growth, eventually leading to urbanization. My results support the view that railroad network construction was key to the modern economic growth in pre-First World War Japan.

Other Papers:

“Time Horizon of Government and Public Goods Provision”, mimeo, 2016

The longer time horizon of government is one of the keys of local public goods provision. I use a unique event in Japanese history to test this hypothesis. In 1651, the sudden death of the third Shogun (the executive leader) gave rise to a political crisis and reduced the transfer risk of local lords, especially for a particular political identity. To exploit this regime change, I digitized several datasets, and by a Difference-in-Difference strategy, I find that regions owned by insiders started a number of projects financed by local lords, more than other regions, after this regime change, supporting the long time horizon effect.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

“Communication and Favoritism in Bureaucracy: Evidence from Japan”

“State Pension, Adverse selection, State Capacity: Evidence from Randomized Evaluation in Mongolia”
(with Tomoaki Tanaka and Yasuyuki Sawada)

“On the Schooling Effect of Mosquito Nets” (with Hidehiko Ichimura and Yasuyuki Sawada)

COMPUTER SKILLS:

STATA, R, Arcgis, Python, Matlab

PERSONAL WEBPAGE

www.junichiyamasaki.com

Last Update: 16/Nov/2016