

Abstracts

Flora BELLONE, Patrick MUSSO, Lionel NESTA and Michel QUÉRÉ, "Post-entry and Pre-exit Performance of French Manufacturing Firms"

This paper analyses post-entry and pre-exit performance of Manufacturing firms using a French dataset covering 14 manufacturing industries over the period 1990-2002. The main focus is on market selection mechanisms looking at total factor productivity levels of entrants and exitors relative to incumbent firms. Entrants are found to outperform incumbents, while exitors are less efficient than their surviving counterparts. We nonetheless found key distinguishable features of exit patterns between young and mature firms. Young exiting firms do not display productivity disadvantage relative to incumbent firms. By contrast, mature exiting firms display large and persistent productivity disadvantage relative to their surviving counterparts (shadow of death effect). The determinants of exit differ for entrants and incumbents. Productive inefficiency is a key determinant of the exit of mature firms but not entrants.

KIYOTA Kozo, NAKAJIMA Takanobu, NISHIMURA Kiyohiko G., "Productivity Convergence at the Firm Level: Effects of Exit on Firm-level Productivity Growth in Japan"

This paper investigates firm-level productivity growth with careful consideration on the effects of entry/exit. We found the productivity convergence among firms. Besides, the analysis without considering the effects of exits causes a statistically significant sample selection bias in the speed-of-convergence estimation.

NITTA Michio, "Evolution of Japanese Employment Systems in the Lost Decade and After"

This paper examines how 'lifetime employment' has evolved in Japan in the 'lost decade' and after.

It finds that, despite large scale redundancies after the financial crises in 1997-1998, the mutual commitment or a social contract between employees (and their representatives) and their employer concerning dismissal avoidance did not disappear. Two kinds of sub-systems that are useful for reducing the possibility of dismissals; 'Employment Adjustment Systems' and 'Employment Portfolio Systems' were reworked to cope with the critical economic conditions.

Caroline LANCIANO-MORANDAT, Hiroatsu NOHARA, "Professionals, Production Systems and Innovation Capacities in The Software Industry: A comparison between France and Japan"

Our analysis shows that the two French and Japanese software production systems form a coherent whole and that the strengths and weaknesses of each system are logical extensions of the societal characteristics already observed in industrial manufacturing. In

Japan, the software industry tends to imitate manufacturing logics with its proper efficiency in producing standardised and material goods, but it doesn't always succeed in doing the same with regard to intangible goods. The software production needs in a sense an unorganised and more control-free invention system. In France, the software companies present a high quality and 'artisan-type' production system. French engineers can perform a far-reached technical prowess but fail to co-operate in order to accumulate a collective and shared knowledge and finally to forge a 'neo-industrialisation' logic of service. As a result, the reconfiguration of organisational and institutional arrangements in software sector is essential, for the two countries, to readjust their production systems to a new technological environment.

HAMASHITA Takeshi, "Historical Transformation of Coastal Urban City Networks in East China Sea Zone: From Pusan-Nagasaki-Ryukyu-Southeast Asia Channel to Yinchon-Shanghai-Kobe Channel"

This paper tries to trace back to 16th-18th century in which tributary trade system in East Asia and Southeast Asia was functioning as a wider regional system with an institutional structure with combination between official tributary trade and private trade in it. Ryukyu networks with overseas Chinese merchants in them were important factors which connected formal and informal trade networks, which were called floating and shipwrecked trade. They utilize the rule of sending back to their original home country they left in the tributary system on the one hand and they intentionally changed their status from private merchants to floating castaways near the coast they wanted to trade. These trade networks closely related to migration.

François GIPOULOUX, "Asian Mediterranean: China at the Core of Two Periods of Globalisation (16th-20th Century)"

Mediterranean is a powerful concept, elaborated by Braudel in his seminal study on *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. It encompasses economic, social and cultural dimensions. In the fourteenth century, Genoa, Venice, Barcelona were global places, controlling world-wide economic flows. This supremacy derived from the structuring of a crucial maritime area, the Mediterranean. What seems to be most remarkable in Braudel's analysis of the Mediterranean maritime world is how borders dematerialized, how flows started to define space and how different stages or levels of development clashed against one another.

During the 18th century, thanks to the overlapping of its trading networks (Arabic, Indian, Portuguese and Chinese) the South China sea was at the core of European and Asian economic exchanges. This paper deals with the following questions: Is Asian Mediterranean a conceptual tool applicable to Asia? More specifically, can the economic corridor of East Asia, hinged onto several interconnected maritime basins: The Sea of

Japan, Yellow Sea, South China Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea be considered a valid illustration of the Braudelian concept, during the two periods under consideration: the end of the 16th century and the end of the 20th century? Is a network of independent cities the prominent actor of this maritime space?

Akira HATTORI and Yveline LECLER, "Innovation and Clusters: The Japanese Government Policy Framework"

This study aims to clarify the different innovation policy frameworks adopted by the Japanese government since the middle of the 90's in order to develop new industries or to revitalize declining industrial regions and further to increase the country international competitiveness. Incubation and Clusters initiatives being nowadays at the core of all industrial but also science and technology policies in Japan, the paper gives a special emphasis to their implementation based on two case studies: The Kyushu Silicon Cluster (industrial cluster) and the Saito Life Science Park (knowledge cluster). They illustrate the interconnection or networking between research institutions, firms and government, the importance given to incubation to foster innovation and link research seeds with industrial needs. They also show the interdependence between clusters (industrial and knowledge ones) at the regional level although supported by the national framework. The first results are discussed in conclusion.

MARUKAWA Tomoo, "The Emergence of Industrial Clusters in Wenzhou, China"

The development of industrial clusters at Wenzhou has attracted many studies in the past. This paper deals with an aspect of Wenzhou's industry, evident to any visitor, but which has rarely been discussed or analyzed in the literature: its diversity of industrial clusters. Wenzhou industrial clusters range from leather shoes to electric parts, buttons, apparel, automobile parts, valves, cigarette lighters, and many others. The purpose of this study is to examine the diversity of Wenzhou's industries and to grasp the reason why so many industrial clusters have emerged there. Based on a thorough survey of corporations at Wenzhou, this paper shows a comprehensive map of Wenzhou's industrial clusters and reveals that there were 153 industrial clusters beyond a certain size in 2001. The paper describes the development process of some industries, such as leather, shoes, valves and pumps.