

Income Differences between Local Born and Migrant Young Adults in Hong Kong: A Comparison of Baby Boomers and Millennials

Abstract

Professor Eric Fong and Dr Man Pui-Kwan explored how three major trends evident in the labor market since the 1970s (narrowing gender inequality, increased enrollment in higher education, economic restructuring, and increase in global migration) are related to income differences between local-born and migrant young adults of the baby boom and millennial generations in Hong Kong, a major city in East Asia. Using the Hong Kong census for 1991 and 2016, they showed that from 1991 to 2016, the income gap between local-born and migrants widened substantially between millennials and baby boomers. RIF regression analysis and the decomposition based on the RIF regression results show that gender, education, and occupation are related to the incomes of young adult baby boomers and millennials in Hong Kong in different ways. These patterns also vary by different income groups.