

Intergenerational Reproduction of Disadvantages Across Generations in Japan: Do Initial Disadvantages in Childhood Affect Later Life Chances?

Adverse childhood experiences such as poverty and neglect are known to affect childhood outcomes such as school performance and overall well-being. This study examines whether disadvantages experienced during the childhood have long-term influence on life chances during adulthood. These initial disadvantages encompass being brought up in an economically challenged family, growing up in a not-so-warm home (an environment lacking warmth), and having experienced illness or disability that impeded daily lives during childhood. The corresponding adult outcomes include poverty, well-being, and self-reported health. By utilizing data from the Japanese Life Course Panel Surveys, this study examines (1) whether adverse childhood experiences have causal effects on adult outcomes, (2) whether initial disadvantages tend to widen, persist, or shrink over the life course, and (3) what kind of life course events experienced during the adulthood enable individuals to recover from and overcome initial disadvantages.