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**Determinants of Intergenerational Living Arrangements in
Japan: A Comparison between Living Together, Living Nearby,
and Living Far Away with the Husband's and the Wife's Parents**

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Previous studies in Japan have asked whether Japanese families have transformed from the traditional-normative patrilineal stem families to the modern bilateral nuclear families as industrialization and urbanization have progressed. In order to answer this question, the previous research on intergenerational living arrangement in Japan have focused on the distinction between “living together” vs. “living separately” with older parents, but paid less attention to the distinction between “living nearby” vs. “living far away” within “living separately”. However, the recent research on people’s attitudes reports that married children prefer “living nearby” to other types of living arrangements, and that married females prefer living nearby with the wife-side parents to that with the husband-side parents. [Question] What are determinants of different types of intergenerational living arrangements in Japan not as attitudes but as an actual behavior? What kinds of effects do normative factors and needs factors give on the arrangements? [Data] The data from the 2008 National Family Research Japan are analyzed. [Results] First, effects of normative factors differ between the husband’s and the wife’s sides: normative factors promote “living together” and “living nearby” with the husband-side parents, but suppress “living together” with the wife-side parents although they do not suppress “living nearby” with the wife-side parents. Second, effects of needs factors are similar for the husband-side as the wife-side arrangements, but differ according to the nature of the needs. For instance, with either sides of parents, childcare needs promote “living nearby” while elderly-care needs promote “living together”. These results indicate that although the patrilineal tradition still remains, people often choose non-normative living arrangement if they have actual needs. Implications for the policy will be discussed.