

CFPR SEMINAR SERIES (AUG – NOV 2024)

RISING SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN ACCESS TO AND USE OF REMOTE WORK FOLLOWING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN JAPAN



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12PM – 1PM (SGT)
(ZOOM)



Session chaired by:

Dr. Senhu Wang
(CFPR Steering Committee Member &
Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

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There has been renewed interest in remote work since the outbreak of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19). However, little is known about how the prevalence of remote work before and after the COVID-19 outbreak is related to workers' socioeconomic characteristics. Using panel survey data from January 2020 to 2023 in Japan, this study examines whether the socioeconomic gap in access to and use of remote work increased and what extent this change can be explained by task differences. The results show that workers with higher social class and educational attainment had a greater increase in access to and use of remote work than their lower counterparts. The increased gap was partly attributable to differences in workers' tasks being suitable for remote work, but not fully accounted for. The results suggest that other task-unrelated factors may have contributed to the increased socioeconomic gap in access to and use of remote work.

OUR SPEAKER



A/P Ryota Mugiyama

GAKUSHUIN UNIVERSITY

Ryota Mugiyama is a sociologist whose research interests include labor market inequality, family formation, and social mobility, with a focus on Japan. After receiving his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Tokyo, he currently teaches and conducts research as an associate professor in the Department of Political Studies at Gakushuin University, Japan.