

## Railways and Interregional Labor Migration in Meiji Japan

所属：東京大学大学院 経済学研究科

氏名：染谷 伊蓉子

### Abstract

In Meiji era, Japan experience rapid industrialization led by the burgeoning silk-reeling industry, which was mostly concentrated in Suwa county of Nagano prefecture. While much of the literature suggests the contribution of railways to economic growth and the correlation between railways and aagglomeration, the impacts of a developed railway network on the movement of workers in Meiji Japan have yet to be revealed.

This paper analyzes the impacts of railways on interregional labor migration in the Chubu region, or the central area of Japan, using population data from *Fuken Tokeisho* (Prefectural Statistics) and railway GIS data. On average, easier railway accesses from 1884 to 1913 were positively correlated with county-level in- and out-migrations, as well as with the resident population. The heterogeneity analysis reveals that the effects on migration were somewhat prevalent, whereas those on residents were weaker. I further found that, with a five-year lag, the magnitude of the impacts of railway access increased. In addition, silk production had the same correlations with migration due to the high turnover rate in the silk-reeling industry. The robustness checks also confirm the main results. As such, this paper fills gaps in the literature on the migration patterns and the economic roles of railways.