

## Gender Role Shift and New Educational Mating: Evidence from Japan

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The weakening and reversing of the negative educational gradient in women's marriage is a phenomenon observed in several high income nations. This shift in the educational gradient in marriage has been documented in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand, some European countries and Taiwan as a possible sign of the shift towards gender-egalitarian couple arrangements. In this paper, we provide new evidence of such shift in educational gradients in the latest marriage behaviors in Japan. To identify the national trend, our study analyzes a pool of data from Japanese National Fertility Surveys which covers behavioral changes of multiple cohorts. We examine both educational gradients in marriage intensities and patterns of educational assortative mating in the period of 1995-2010. Followed by these analyses, we present the detailed description of the country's gender contexts in the market and domestic activities as well as young adults' gender role expectations. Our examination of educational differentials in Japanese marriage aims to provide alternative views to the interpretation of the change in educational marriage patterns in contemporary East Asia.