

# 香港における少子化の社会経済的要因の変化

－1980-1990年代と2000-2010年代の比較－

## The Change of Social and Economic Factors of the Lowest-low

### Fertility in Hong Kong:

A comparative study between 1980s-1990s and 2000s-2010s

梁 凌詩ナンシー (東洋大学アジア文化研究所)

LEUNG Ling Sze Nancy (Toyo University Asian Cultures Research Institute)

nancyllsleung@hotmail.com

The total fertility rate (TFR) of Hong Kong dropped under replacement level (TFR<2.0) since 1981 and reached 0.9 in 2003. From 2004, the TFR of Hong Kong increased gradually and reached 1.29 in 2012. However, TFR decreased again and in 2018 it was 1.07. The reasons of decreasing fertility in Hong Kong were always pointed to industrialization, women's full participation in society, the spread of family planning, the spread of late marriage and late childbearing. Most of these researches were done in the 1960s and 1970s and were referring to the rapid fertility decline occurred in the 1960s. After the Second World War, Hong Kong had a rapid industrialization. Especially, in the 1960s, the flourish of second industry, especially textile, garment and plastic productions provided tones of working opportunities for women and increased women's economic power. These directly postponed women's marriage age and childbearing age. And the promotion of family planning in 1960s further pushed late childbearing and small family size.

However, these social and economic environments did not continue in 1980s as the main industrial sector of Hong Kong shifted from second industry to third industry. The service sector surge immediately when the manufacturing moved out of Hong Kong. The increasing demand on skilled labor gradually turned Hong Kong into a knowledge-based society. The expectation on children's education increased and this directly increased the cost of child rearing and affected couples' fertility decision. Besides, the increasing property price and lease price in late 1990s also postponed the timing of marriage and childbearing. The situation became more notability in the 2000s. In the early 2000s, the change of education policy, especially the shift of the media of instruction from English to Cantonese in Secondary school further speeded up the education race. Parents tended to education children at an early age and this not only increased the cost of child rearing, it also affect couples' motivation in having children. This research aimed to compare the social and economic factors affecting fertility between 1980s-90s and 2000s -10s.