

Cross-National Comparison and Class Classification:
Conversion of Occupational Titles in Japan into
Cross-Nationally Comparable Measures
of Class Classification

Hirohisa TAKENOSHITA
Shunsuke TANABE¹
Nobuo KANOMATA²

Cross-national comparison of social stratification has received scholarly attention in many countries. However, there are few cross-national comparative works on social mobility in Japan, partly because there has been no research in Japan which attempts to make cross-nationally comparable measures of social class and occupational status. While previous research has used some different class classification, the class classification suggested by Erikson, Goldthorpe and Portocarrero (hereafter EGP class classification) is now widely employed by many social stratification researchers. The present study aims to explore the characteristics of EGP class classification and how a detailed classification of several hundred categories of occupational titles specifically used among Japanese social stratification researchers could be converted into EGP class classification which has been assumed to be internationally comparable measures among social stratification researchers, based upon the information about how the international standard classification of occupations is changed into EGP class classification. In the project of Comparative Analysis of Social Mobility in Industrial Nations (hereafter CASMIN), the procedure of conversion of detailed classification of occupations into EGP categories depended upon nations, not only because a detailed classification of occupations differed substantially across nation, but because there is a remarkable difference in how some occupations are ranked and located in the national labor market. Therefore, CASMIN project placed emphasis on taking into account

¹ University of Tokyo

² Keio University

the conditions for local labor market in each country when the procedure of their conversion was considered. This article also tries to incorporate the context of Japanese labor market and employment into the recoding procedure to EGP categories.