



# LUNCH SEMINAR

## on the Japanese Economy

at the Maison franco-japonaise

### "Income Inequality in Japan : from Historical and Comparative Perspectives"

**Chiaki MORIGUCHI** (Assistant Professor)

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April 11th 2007 (Wednesday), from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Maison franco japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

*With the generous support of the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan*

#### Summary

Despite the recent concern about rising income inequality, Japan remains to be one of the most egalitarian economies in the world. When did Japan become the so-called "equal society"? Using new data compiled from income tax statistics, we explore the long-run evolution of income concentration in Japan from 1886 to 2002 and document the drastic decline in top income shares during WWII. Despite the high economic growth in 1950-1973 and the prolonged recession in the 1990s, the degree of income concentration has remained remarkably low and stable in Japan from 1950 to 2000. The historical experience of Japan is more or less comparable to that of continental European countries, such as France and Netherlands, but is in stark contrast to that of the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. where income concentration has increased sharply since the early 1980s.

#### Biography

Chiaki Moriguchi is an assistant professor at the Department of Economics of Northwestern University and a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, U.S.A. Her fields of research are comparative economic history and economics of organization. In particular, she is interested in understanding the historical origins of labor markets and other economic institutions in Japan and the U.S. She holds Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University and has taught at the Harvard Business School prior to joining Northwestern University.

#### How to attend the Lunch Seminar ?

The participation to the Lunch Seminar is free but registration is strictly required. Please apply by e-mail to : [lechevalier@mfj.gr.jp](mailto:lechevalier@mfj.gr.jp) ; or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your :

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|--------------------------|----------|
| - name                   | - adress |
| - company or institution | - phone  |
| - position               | - e-mail |

**NB : The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the participants (in English, no translation).**

#### Forthcoming

■ May 25, 2007 (Friday) | 12:30 – 14:00

**Japanese Multinationals in China.  
A Comparative Perspective**

By ITŌ Keiko (Senshū University)

#### How to get there ?

