



Nanyang Technological University

ECONOMIC GROWTH CENTRE
Seminar Series

The Division of Economics and Economic Growth Centre cordially invites you to a seminar by Associate Professor Katsunori Yamada

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- Speaker** : **Katsunori Yamada**
Associate Professor, Kindai University, Faculty of Economics
- Topic** : **"Can We Steer Income Comparison Attitudes by Information Provision?: Evidence from Randomized Survey Experiments in the US and the UK", (with its application to fMRI study)"**
- Chairperson** : **Assistant Professor He Taisen**
*Division of Economics
School of Humanities & Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University*
- Date** : **Wednesday, 16 September 2015**
- Time** : **2.30 pm - 3.30 pm**
- Venue** : **HSS Meeting Room 5 (HSS 04-89)**
*Nanyang Technological University
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
14, Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637332*

About the Speaker:

Yamada received his PhD from Kyoto University, Japan in 2006 and worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), Osaka University and as an assistant professor at ISER. He stayed at Paris School of Economics and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona to work on behavioral economics, in particular social preferences. He is currently Associate Professor of Economics at Kindai University, Japan. His research areas include Macroeconomics, Experimental Economics and Neuroeconomics. He has published his works in Review of Economic Dynamics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, and Journal of Neuroscience.

Abstract:

Economists have long been concerned that negative attitudes about relative income reduce social welfare. This paper investigates whether such attitudes can be mitigated by a simple information treatment. Toward this end, we conducted an original randomized online survey experiment in the US and the UK. As a baseline result, we find that UK respondents compare their incomes with others' at a much higher rate than US subjects do. Additionally, we find that our information treatment—suggesting that comparing income with others may diminish their welfare even when income levels are actually increasing—made respondents compare incomes more, rather than less. Interestingly, we find such effects only among UK respondents. The mechanism for this among UK respondents seems to be driven by those who are initially less comparison-conscious becoming more comparison-conscious, indicating that our information treatment gives moral "license" to make comparisons by informing that others actually do.

Reservation:

Admission is free. Please reply to Director-EGC, e-mail:d-egc@ntu.edu.sg to confirm your attendance.