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学位論文の要約

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Essays on wage inequality and COVID-19 control in China

（中国の賃金格差に関する研究と COVID-19 制御の実証研究）

This thesis includes three chapters, focusing on two crucial topics of interest to Chinese society in recent times: the wage gap and COVID-19. Chapter 1 analyzes the wage gap between urban natives and rural-urban migrants from 2002 to 2013 in China. In the Chinese labor market, the wage gap between urban natives and rural-urban migrants has narrowed 17% during this period. This chapter utilizes the Chinese Household Income Project (CHIP) survey dataset and employs the Juhn, Murphy, and Pierce (1991) decomposition method to analyze wage gap changes. The results show three main causes of the wage gap reduction: reduced discrimination (31.58%), favorable wage structure (31.24%), and improvement in job characteristics of migrants (24.56%). It further explores the wage gap trends in different skill groups, and the findings reveal that low-skilled migrants benefit more from the labor market than high-skilled migrants.

Chapter 2 analyzes Chinese wage inequality trends from 1989 until 2015, a period of unprecedented economic growth. It explores the idea that lower tail wage inequality widened to a higher degree than the upper tail. This trend is increasingly noticeable in groups with more high-skilled workers, such as men and urban residents. This chapter adopts the quantile decomposition method (Autor et al., 2005; Melly, 2005) to determine the reasons for widening lower tail wage inequality. The results show that the residual effect significantly impacts the wage gap on lower quantiles, particularly inequality between the 25th and 5th percentile.

Chapter 3 is an empirical study about the role of governmental tweets in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. It estimates the role of using the largest social media platform in China, Sina Weibo, by the Chinese government for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Manually collected governmental microblogs about the COVID-19 outbreak are analyzed, which shows that a 10 percent increase in the number of microblogs resulted in a 1.38 percent decrease of confirmed COVID-19 cases. This effect is more pronounced in areas with less restrained travel restrictions. The effect relies primarily on two mechanisms: encouraging home quarantine and promoting knowledge about COVID-19 prevention.