

SAKITO TANGO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Sep. 2026 – Present
M.A. in Economics, The University of Tokyo <i>Early Completion, Advisor: Prof. Kosuke Aoki</i>	Apr. 2024 – Mar. 2025
B.A. in Economics, The University of Tokyo <i>Summa Cum Laude of the Department, Advisor: Prof. Kosuke Aoki</i>	Apr. 2020 – Mar. 2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics: Labor, Family, Inequality, Social Security, Heterogeneous Agent Model, New Keynesian Model

WORKING PAPERS

“Intra-Household Bargaining in Macroeconomics: An Application to Japan’s Distortive Tax System”

Abstract: Macroeconomic models often abstract from married couples’ decision-making. This paper challenges it: overlooking intra-household bargaining may bias macroeconomic analyses. I develop a life-cycle model where spouses’ bargaining powers endogenously respond to economic conditions. I apply this framework to Japan’s distortive tax system. It reveals that married women’s labor supply is lost by 20.4%, but the loss is underestimated by 3.2 percentage points if bargaining is ignored. The results highlight the importance of a Lucas critique for household models: bargaining powers respond to policy and are not deep parameters. The framework applies broadly to gender-related policy contexts.

*This paper was previously circulated under the title “Tax-Induced Barriers to Female Workers in Japan: Insights from Dynamic Intra-Household Bargaining.”

“Investing in Sons and Daughters: A Structural Model of Marriage, Fertility, and Education” (with Sagiri Kitao)

Abstract: This paper develops a structural model of marriage, fertility, and educational investment to study how family formation and human capital accumulation shape labor supply in aging economies. The model incorporates gender differences in parental investment and heterogeneity among college graduates, capturing the intensity of educational competition and externalities. Parents allocate resources between sons and daughters based on expected consequences of educational investment, and among colleges of varying rank. Calibrated to the Japanese economy, the model quantifies how technological development, gender wage gaps and educational stratification influence fertility, marriage, and inequality in the medium to long-run.

“Aging and Saving in Japan: Analysis Using a Continuous-Time Heterogeneous-Agent Overlapping Generations Model”
(with Makoto Nirei)

Abstract: This paper develops a general equilibrium overlapping generations model with heterogeneous households to quantitatively evaluate the long-run trajectory of Japan’s household saving rate. The model is calibrated to the Japanese economy as of 1989 and captures exogenous changes in productivity growth, fertility, and longevity. It successfully replicates the decline in household saving rates observed after 1990 and projects that demographic changes will play an increasingly prominent role in shaping future trends. In line with empirical micro-level studies, our results underscore that shifts in household saving behavior are just as influential as changes in the age distribution in determining overall saving rates.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Childcare Federalism”

FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, AND GRANT

Funai Overseas Scholarship, Funai Foundation	Sep. 2026 – Aug. 2028
KDDI Foundation Scholarship	Sep. 2026 – Aug. 2028
Research Fellow (DC1), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	Apr. 2025 – Present
World-leading Innovative Graduate Study Program, The University of Tokyo	Apr. 2024 – Mar. 2025

HONORS AND AWARDS

University-Wide Representative at Matriculation Ceremony <i>Graduate School, The University of Tokyo (took an oath on behalf of 5,000 incoming students)</i>	2024
Summa Cum Laude of Department <i>Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics, The University of Tokyo</i>	2024
Graduation Thesis Award <i>Faculty of Economics, The University of Tokyo</i>	2024

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Prof. Kosuke Aoki, The University of Tokyo	Jun. 2024 – Present
Center for Research and Education in Program Evaluation	Jun. 2024 – Mar. 2025
Prof. Daiji Kawaguchi, The University of Tokyo	Apr. 2024 – Mar. 2025
Prof. Makoto Nirei, The University of Tokyo	Dec. 2023 – Mar. 2024
Shinnosuke Kikuchi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Oct. 2023 – Mar. 2024

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Macroeconomics I (Undergraduate) <i>Instructor: Prof. Makoto Nirei, The University of Tokyo</i>	2025 Fall
Macroeconomics II (Graduate, Ph.D. Core course) <i>Instructor: Asst. Prof. Akira Ishide, The University of Tokyo</i>	2025 Fall
Econometrics II (Graduate, Ph.D. Core course) <i>Instructor: Prof. Ryo Okui, The University of Tokyo</i>	2025 Spring

PRESENTATIONS

2026 Econometric Society Asia Meeting, Abu Dhabi (Jan.);	
2025 The University of Tokyo, Tokyo (Jan.); Japanese Economic Association Spring Meeting (poster, in Japanese), Aichi (May); 3rd RISE Workshop, Tokyo (Jul.); Summer Workshop on Economic Theory, Hokkaido (Aug.); 1st Workshop of the East and South-East Asian Macroeconomic Society, Tokyo (Sep.); 27th TCER Annual Macro Conference (in Japanese), Tokyo (Nov.); Hitotsubashi University (in Japanese), Tokyo (Nov.); Ryukoku University, Kyoto (Dec.);	

OTHER SKILLS AND BIOGRAPHY

Computer Skills:	Fortran, Julia, Matlab, R, Stata, Python, Dynare, Docker, AWS, High-Performance Computing
Languages:	Japanese (native), English (fluent)
Citizenship:	Japan
Date of Birth:	April 24, 2001