

Lavinia L. Dock : Nurse and Internationalist at the Turn of Nineteenth-Century America

Keiko Sugiyama

Known for her role in the history of the American nursing profession, Lavinia L. Dock (1858–1956) also played an important role to create international networks of nurses serving as the Secretary of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) for more than 20 years. This paper explores the articles and reports by Lavinia L. Dock in her ICN years. By focusing on Dock's writings we see the struggle of a nurse trying to define her own role as an American citizen at the turn of the nineteenth-century America. She came to feel that that goal could be reached only by putting herself outside of the United States. She stood like a "lightning rod", absorbing signals and then forming policies on multiple domestic and international problems. Subsequently, she became alienated from both nurses at home and colleagues in the ICN. Her career provides insight into the efforts of American women during profound social and international change.

An Analysis of Minimum Wages in the United States

Makoto Sakai

It was once conventional wisdom among economists that a small increase in the minimum wage would result in a small reduction in the employment of teenagers and unskilled workers. In fact, however, the effect of minimum wages upon employment has been an unsolved question for the last several decades. In the mid-1990s this issue attracted a considerable amount of attention with the emergence in academic circles of some remarkable research which challenged conventional beliefs.

This report tries to review both the characteristics and the problems of the current minimum wage system by analyzing the effect on employment of minimum wage increases, seen simultaneously from a theoretical and an empirical viewpoint.

First, the effects of minimum wage hike on the employment are not uniform ; both negative and positive results are possible, depending on the economic circumstances at the time. In this regard, the issue is still left unresolved.

Second, minimum wage increases change the distribution of wages in such a way that low-income households, devoid of attractiveness as a labor force, receive a smaller share of the pie. The higher minimum wage is not bringing about the results that it was primarily designed to deliver early in the last century.

Third, paradoxically, the idea of forming more flexible labor markets without tight wage regulations seems to be a reasonable way to

create diverse low-wage markets and increase employment opportunities. For example, if the greater number of local governments begins to set their minimum wages lower than the federal regulations, it may be effective in supporting low-income households, including former welfare recipients.

The Treatment of Women on Public Pension System in U. K.

—From the Viewpoint of Contribution and Pension Sharing System—

Katsura Maruyama

This paper analyze the paradox of retirement pension provision as it relates to women, especially the contribution and pension sharing. Historically, they were treated as financial independence in retirement and as widows, survivors, dependent of their husband. Insurance-based schemes have long included provision for widows and elderly women on the basis of husbands' contribution. In Beveridge report, women were thought as mother and survivors and dependents of their husband and he thought almost married women would not work outside after the war.

They are now entering the workforce in greater numbers than ever before and men are no longer seen as the only breadwinner. Yet their lifetime working patterns are generally very different form male employment patterns on which the National Insurance system is based.

And Pension Sharing system, introduced on December 2000, are very important for divorced women of low earnings. The court gives order to the pension fund that it must give a percentage of the pension fund to the ex-spouse. The divided period is different between in Scotland and England. In Scotland, the pension is divided only within the period of marriage, but in England, the pension is divided all over the life period.

In Japan, the married housewife is treated well than other working people. It is necessary to reform the contribution system of married

housewife and also to introduce the pension sharing to ensure the financial status of women.

Thinking about thinking

—A new trial for freshman seminar

Keiichi Furuya

A new type of course program has been developed for freshman seminar adjusting to the change in students' characters, caused by the recent decrease of the student population in Japan. Most Japanese students are educated memorizing a limited range of knowledge in order to survive severe examination struggle but not for creative thinking. This program has a stress on the cultivation of creative thinking experiences through a variety of games and quizzes which attract students' interests and participation. Twelve exercises for each 90 minutes session are introduced.

1. Introduction ; Survey of the meanings of "think" and "study" with dictionaries.
2. "Answer is not limited to one" ; Brain storming of impression of a picture and mapping by KJ method.
3. "Dichotomized patterns and sentences"
4. Movie, "Rashomon" ; Different testimonies of an affair.
5. "How to utilize library services" ; Consulting encyclopedia,
6. "Enjoy zigsaw puzzle" ; Observation of mental process from the start to the end,
7. "Merits of classification" ; Classification games,
8. "Find the sequence" ; Find the right sequence of comic strips, 4-line poems and sentences.
9. "Wrong signboards and top sentences" ; Importance of guiding words,
10. "How to write a letter" ; Style and manner of letter writing,
11. "How to write a report" ; Requirements of a report, its style and preparation,
12. "How to write a written test".

The results of student evaluation showed very high points.

Henry James's View of American People and Society (6)

Sanae Fujino

This paper explores Henry James's view of American people and society projected in his delineation of the hero Strether and other characters in *The Ambassadors* (1903).

Henry James is a writer who makes an acute reflection of social tendency in each of his novels. In *The Ambassadors* his sense of consumer culture is revealed in the characterization. One of the marked aspects of consumer culture is that people are attracted more to the appearance of merchandise than to its intrinsic value. In this story, such tendency is reflected in people's way of thinking and judgment. Strether's misjudgment is led through his judging people by appearance. For example, he found Chad got refined, but it was only by appearance; Chad was a materialistic American all the same.

James shows Chad as a new type of American businessman: he is not interested in exploring traditional European culture as the Americans used to do; he is not eager to acquire antiques. Instead, he acquires refinement for himself through intercourse with Mme. De Vionne, which he would make the most of in his future business career, along with his newly acquired knowledge of advertisement. Chad should be a successful businessman in the new age.

James shows his anxiety about American people's insolence as a result of material affluence.

Significance of Early Writings by Asian-American Lesbians : On *Between the Lines*

Hiroko Arima

Between the Lines, written by a group of Asian-American lesbians and published in 1987, is one of the most significant pioneer works of a collection of writings by Asian-American lesbians. By examining its significance as a pioneer work and by discerning the relevance of its content to the present conditions of Asian-American lesbians, researchers gain deeper insight into several major current issues such as homosexuality and feminism.

Beginning with a reference to sexual minority in the U. S. A. in general, and with the presentation of statistics concerning the ratio of Asians and homosexuals, this paper focuses on the conditions of this triply oppressed group – Asian female homosexuals. It emphasizes both the common and conflicting themes between feminism and lesbianism that are one of the main foci in *Between the Lines* : that is, (1) how conditions of lesbians highlight those of women in general, and (2) the reaction on the part of lesbians not only to the lack of support, but also at times even to homophobic attitudes of feminist camps. To discuss such issues in the particular context of Asian-American lesbianism reveals a new perspective. Finally, the paper concludes with a discussion focusing on a poem that deals with the theme of being an Asian in the U. S. A., appealing to the keen sensitivity of researchers about the struggles of multiply oppressed minorities.

On Kobayashi Hideo's "A letter to X"

Kazuhito Gonda

"Letters to X" is Kobayashi Hideo's last novel. He began concentrating on literary criticism after writing it. This essay clarifies that this novel shows the final point that Kobayashi had reached through his creative activity as a novelist on the one hand and the anticipation for the new prospect that he developed later in the area of literary criticism on the other. It also examines his linguistic sense, his methods of criticizing ideologies, and the strategy that he adopted to manage the matters in the political structure of the literary world. Then it clarifies that his literary criticism, the main targets of which are the overly political tendency of the proletarian literature and overly naive literature-ism developed by the so-called "geijutsu-ha (art for arts sake)", was shaped through the critical examination of literary works through analyzing the process of the production and the circulation of linguistic expression.