

*Divergence of Productivist Welfare States in Comparative Perspective:
The Case of the Pension Scheme in South Korea and Singapore**

Mason Myoung-Shik Kim

Department of Political Science
University of Pittsburgh
myk2@pitt.edu

Abstract

Although East Asian states possess some common developmental characteristics, the welfare capitalism in East Asia has been evolving in the two different directions of institutional arrangement. One is social insurance-based scheme and the other is private savings-based scheme. This article conceptualizes the first pattern as compensatory (CP) system while the latter as competitiveness-enhancing (CE) system. This research examines the divergence of productivist welfare capitalism, thus exploring the causal configurations behind this variation. Focusing on the pension scheme in South Korea and Singapore, this research shed lights on how different financial systems have created the divergence and what role regime types play in facilitating the divergence of productivist welfare states.

Key Words: Productivist Welfare, Financial System, Regime Type

* Prepared for the International Conference on “Asian Social Protection in Comparative Perspective,” Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM), January 7-9, 2009, National University of Singapore.