

The 10th International Seminar on Experiments and Surveys in Economics and Related Social Sciences

Date: July 8, 2008 (Tue) 15:00–16:30

Venue: West 9 Building, 2nd floor, Room #204, Ookayama Campus

Interpreting Equality: Welfare, Capabilities, or Resource

Makoto Usami

Abstract:

For the last three decades, the question of what is the appropriate term of equality has provoked a great deal of controversy among political philosophers as well as economic theorists. Major alternative terms in interpersonal comparison fall into three categories: welfare, capabilities, and resource. In this talk, I point out some of the difficulties faced by traditional welfarist conceptions of equality. The capabilities approach to this notion is also critically examined. Then I try to refine and defend resourcist accounts, limiting the realm of redistribution in which we legitimately pursue the ideal of equality.

Moderator: Noboru Hidano