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Introduction

Transnational Caregiving, End-Of-Life, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Robots for Transnational Families from Global Perspectives

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Keywords: AI (Artificial Intelligence), Robots, Transnational families, Transnational caregiving, End-of-life, Global perspectives

According to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2024), generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) has the potential to impact a much wider range of labor markets and impact a wider range of people and places than previous technologies that drove the automation of tasks. Across the member countries, around a quarter of workers have been exposed to generative AI (Artificial Intelligence), meaning that 20% (or more) of their jobs could be performed at least 50% faster with the help of generative AI (Artificial Intelligence). Exposure to AI (Artificial Intelligence) will continue to increase as new software is developed or integrated with generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology, and the proportion of workers likely to be exposed to AI (50% of tasks using generative AI which could run at least 50% faster) will continue to increase. It is probably widespread from 16% to over 70% across the regions. In contrast to previous automation technologies, generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) is better at performing cognitive and non-routine tasks, and regions with high concentrations of industries such as education, ICT (Information and Communication Technology), and finance are most exposed to generative AI (Artificial Intelligence). Exposure to regional labor markets has changed, and regions previously thought to be at relatively low risk from automation are now most at risk.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2024) addressed that new AI (Artificial Intelligence) technologies had the potential to provide the countries with strategic tools to address major economic and labor market challenges, including labor shortages, and boost sluggish labor productivity growth. Accelerating the adoption of AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology could provide a much-needed catalyst for increasing productivity in local economies. By providing access to AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools and training, regions can access untapped talent, such as low-skilled workers and workers with disabilities. In addition, AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology can be leveraged to directly replace workers where possible, mitigating the effects of labor shortages and an aging workforce. National place-based policies and local actions can help foster regional economic resilience and reap the benefits of generative AI (Artificial Intelligence). Reflecting on the diverse impacts and recovery from the pandemic will help policymakers consider the different degrees of resilience to labor market shocks in different regions and address the challenges and appropriate policy responses.

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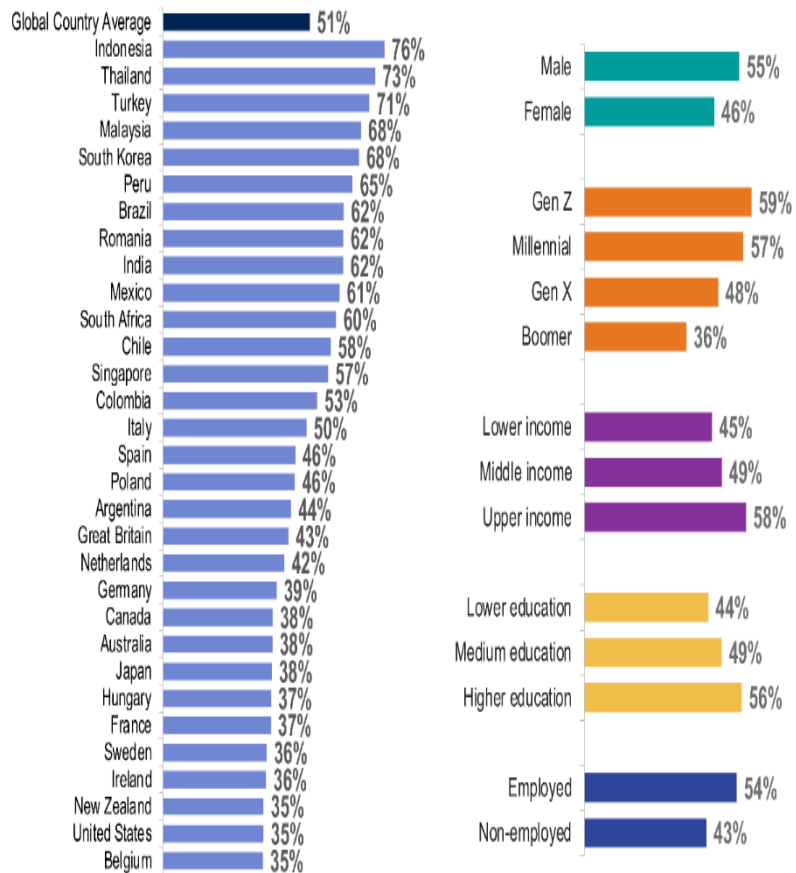** Lecturer, School of Letters, Mukogawa Women's University

Figure 1 Global views on AI: Understanding of AI (Ipsos, 2023)

Ipsos (2023) conducted a 31-country Global Advisor Survey concerning how people around the world understand AI (Artificial Intelligence) and expect it will impact their lives. On average across the 31 countries, two-thirds said they had a good understanding of what AI (Artificial Intelligence) was, but only half said they were aware of products and services that use AI (Artificial Intelligence) (Figure 1; Ipsos, 2023). Knowledge about which products and services use AI (Artificial Intelligence) was higher among younger people, men, employed people, people with higher education, and/or wealthier people. Over the past 18 months, there was a reported increase in understanding of AI (Artificial Intelligence), particularly in Europe.

Feeling about AI indicated, globally, 54% of the participants agreed that products and services using AI (Artificial Intelligence) had more benefits than drawbacks and were excited about them, for example Mexico (73%) and Japan (52%), while the United States (32%) and Sweden (39%) showed lower percentages. Also, 52% of the participants felt anxious, an increase of 13 points from 18 months ago. Excitement was highest in emerging markets and lowest in Europe and North America. This percentage was also higher among Gen Z, Millennials, and college-educated generations. Nervousness was highest in all predominantly English-speaking countries and lowest in Japan, South Korea, and Eastern Europe.

Trust in AI (Artificial Intelligence) varied widely by region. It was generally much higher in emerging markets and people under 40 than in high-income countries and in Generation X and baby boomers. In Thailand, 72% of people showed trust that companies using AI (Artificial Intelligence) would protect their personal information, compared to just 32% in France, Japan, and the United States.

In terms of impact of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the near future, on average, 66%, including majorities in all countries, agreed that AI-powered products and services would significantly change their daily lives in the next 3-5 years across all demographic groups but especially among the wealthier and university-educated, for example 82% in South Korea and 51% in France. Fifty-seven percent of the workers expected AI (Artificial Intelligence) to change the way they did their current jobs, and 36% of the workers expected AI (Artificial Intelligence) to replace their current jobs. The proportion of the workers expecting major disruption was highest in Southeast Asia and lowest in Northern Europe. Younger workers and decision-makers were far more likely than others to expect major disruption.

Given the significant global changes after the pandemic, the 2023 Japanese Fiscal Year UC Berkeley International Symposium (online) on Transnational Caregiving and End-Of-Life from Global Perspectives was held at the University of California at Berkeley, National Taiwan University, Osaka University, and across the globe in March 2024. The International Symposium discussed transnational caregiving for older adults and end- of-life from global perspectives, in collaboration with ICT (Information and Communication Technology), AI (Artificial Intelligence), and robots in the post COVID-19 era.

This publication is partly based on the International Symposium, and the Special Edition of Bulletin of Asia-Pacific Studies, Vol.27 (2) examines transnational caregiving for older adults, end-of-life, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots for transnational families from global perspectives. The Special edition consists of two parts. Part 1 analyzes AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots in work and transnational families in North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Part 1 also discusses transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life among Chinese Vietnamese refugees living in Japan and addresses cultural and social contexts in Chinese Vietnamese refugees in Japan, according to Confucianism

In Paper 1, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. and Lok Siu, Ph.D. first demonstrate recent trends of international migration and labor market in North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, in particular the United States, Sweden, Mexico, and Japan after the pandemic. With the introduction

of AI (Artificial Intelligence) into the labor market and working environment, there is a risk that certain occupations and duties will be replaced by AI (Artificial Intelligence), that humans will no longer be involved in the replaced occupations and duties, and that such occupations and duties will disappear. The impact on the international business community is discussed. Finally, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. and Lok Siu, Ph.D. propose the ethical, legal, and social issues of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in work.

In Paper 2, Takaya Hayashi, Ph.D. and Gyo Miyabara, Ph.D. focus on cultural and social contexts of transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life in Chinese Vietnamese refugees who survived from Vietnam and moved to Japan via Hong Kong, China, considering Confucianism. Takaya Hayashi, Ph.D. and Gyo Miyabara, Ph.D. describe how Chinese Vietnamese refugees living in Japan conserve the Confucian perspective on life and death and interpret their experiences, referring to "The Decade of a Vietnamese Refugee Girl," a memoir written by a Chinese Vietnamese woman in Japan. Through an analysis of how the Confucian family morality and ethics are portrayed in the memoir, Takaya Hayashi, Ph.D. and Gyo Miyabara, Ph.D. reveal that Chinese Vietnamese refugees in Japan have been strongly influenced by the Confucian perspective on the idea of the intergenerational succession of life.

Part 2 analyzes AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots in transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life from global perspectives. In Paper 3, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. and Lok Siu, Ph.D. shed light on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots for transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life. Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. and Lok Siu, Ph.D. embrace culturally sensitive AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots and examine ethical, legal, and social issues of transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life. Based on the literature reviews, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. and Lok Siu, Ph.D. propose policy implications of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots for culturally competent AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots for transnational caregiving for older adults and end-of-life.

In Paper 4, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. enlightens narratives of older Japanese Americans who were over 64 years old and experienced transnational caregiving for the oldest old parents (over 79 years old) in the United States and Japan, with ICT (Information and Communication Technology), AI (Artificial Intelligence), and robots. In-person interviews with older Japanese Americans were conducted in California. As a result of a content analysis, Kazumi Hoshino, Ph.D. presents policy implications of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and robots for transnational caregiving for the oldest old parents and end-of-life in older Japanese Americans in the United States and Japan.

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