

# **Decomposing Youth Poverty in 22 Countries —Contributions of Household Composition, Social Welfare, and the Market to Cross-national Variations in Youth Poverty\***

Tsui-o Tai

Department of Sociology, National Taipei University  
No. 151, University Rd., San Shia District, New Taipei City 23741, Taiwan  
E-mail: [tsuiotai@mail.ntpu.edu.tw](mailto:tsuiotai@mail.ntpu.edu.tw)

## **Abstract**

Based on 2010 Luxembourg Income Study data, this research examines cross-national patterns of rates of youth poverty, using Taiwan as a representative of East Asian welfare regimes and comparing it to 21 countries. With decomposition analyses, I investigate the ways in which three structural factors—household composition, market income poverty, and social welfare—contribute to divergent patterns of youth poverty. Taiwan is a society in which intergenerational coresidence is prevalent but in which young adults and young parents are eligible for limited social provisions. The results show that in Scandinavian countries, leaving the parental home is associated with high levels of poverty, although generous social provisions offset some of

---

Received September 29, 2016; accepted June 21, 2017; last revised June 8, 2017  
Proofreaders: Liang-Wei Huang, Min-Fang Tsai, Tsai-Ying Lu

\* This research is supported by a grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST 105-2410-H-305-002-MY2). I am grateful to the three anonymous referees, Professor Yi-Fu Chen and the research group of National Taipei University for their useful suggestions.

the poverty risks of young adults. In East Asian countries, despite limited welfare benefits, the prevalence of intergenerational coresidence and lower levels of market income poverty have strong mitigating effects on youth poverty.

**Key Words:** youth poverty, decomposition, household composition, social welfare