ABSTRACT:

Korea has been experiencing dramatic decrease in its fertility level since 1960s. According to the World Bank report, its total fertility rate (TFR) reached 1.2 births per woman in 2011, which is far below replacement level of 2.1 births per woman. Despite the government’s recent fertility encouragement efforts, Korea’s total fertility rate has continued to be the lowest level among the world.

In this research, I focused on the recent trend of Korea’s TFR particularly since 2000. From the data called Korea Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families, I found Korea’s recent low TFR is due to flight from marriage not because of fertility decision of married couples. In addition, the less educated are often absent from debates but my research found that they are one of the main groups who retreat from marriage these days in Korea. This research will be the one of the first studies to provide insights into the emerging patterns of Korean marriages and its effect on fertility rates.