

Division of Social Sciences and Humanities

Research Division Introduction

There are currently eight projects in the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. Of the projects of the IISS, four projects that carry out integrated research with the social sciences and natural and life sciences have been transferred to the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities.

In fiscal 2016, we recruited new projects and adopted five projects. These nine projects are all collaborated by researchers from multiple departments and mainly conduct various policy studies and regional studies. Every project is organized with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and international perspective and is expected to make the use of and further develop the strength of Kobe University's comprehensiveness and the international tradition.

Projects

No.	Research Theme	Project Leader
02	Studies on Sustainable Transport	SANKO Nobuhiro
03	Databases for Historical / Enterprise Documents, and Empirical Studies Based on Image and Text Data	KAMIHIGASHI Takashi
04	The Research Center for Modern Chinese Studies	KAJITANI Kai
05	Meta-science and Technology Project: Methodology, Ethics and Policy from a Comprehensive Viewpoint	MATSUDA Tsuyoshi
06	Interdisciplinary Research on Humanities Information: A New Information Sharing Model for Regional Studies	OKUMURA Hiroshi
07	Research on the Public Policies on Migration, Multiculturalization, and Welfare for the Regeneration of Communities in European, Asian and Japanese Societies	SAKAI Kazunari
08	Sustainable Growth Potential of the Market Economy	HAMORI Shigeyuki
09	Sustainable Community Development for Poverty Alleviation	SHIMAMURA Yasuharu

Studies on Sustainable Transport

Project Leader SANKO Nobuhiro

~Outline of Research Project~

This research project explores roads toward sustainable transport, with emphasis on developing model which will be able to assess related transport policies and international comparison studies. Needless to say, a modern and cost-effective transport system is vital to modern society. We need a transport system which supports a rich social life and a strong economy, which helps increase prosperity and tackles social exclusion. We also need a transport system which doesn't damage our health and provides a better quality of life and environment without passing onto future generations a poorer world. This is why sustainable transport has become a key concept of transport policy in many countries. In this research project, we will analyze various issues in transport policy and regulatory design to realize sustainable transport.

Databases for Historical /Enterprise Documents, and Empirical Studies Based on Image and Text Data

Project Leader KAMIHIGASHI Takashi

~Outline of Research Project~

The Research Institute for Economics and Business Administration possesses unique archives containing internal documents from Kanebo and Kanematsu, and is widely regarded as a research base for databases of historical documents.

On the other hand, recent developments in data science such as deep learning and text mining have not been fully applied to the analysis of historical documents yet. In this project, applying such techniques as well as traditional approaches to historical documents, we conduct research on historical documents in a way unique to Kobe University.

The Research Center for Modern Chinese Studies

Project Leader KAJITANI Kai

~Outline of Research Project~

The Research Center for Modern Chinese Studies of Kobe University was established in August 2013 as part of the NIHU (National Institutes for the Humanities) project to promote modern area studies. The purpose of the establishment of the Research Center was to collaborate with researchers in other universities and research institutes who are interested in modern Chinese studies. NIHU is one of inter-university research institute corporations established in 2004, as a base for promoting joint research in Japan. NIHU consists of six institutions including National Museum of Ethnology, International Research Center for Japanese Studies, and National Institute for Japanese language and Linguistics. Since 2006, three regions, (Islamic Region, Modern China, and Modern India) were selected as the specific important regions of academic and social significance for Japan. Several research centers have been established for each area, and academic networks have been established among universities and research institutions.

At the beginning of the establishment of the research center, led by Professor Hiroyuki Kato of the Graduate School of Economics, empirical studies on the contemporary Chinese economy on the theme of "empirical research on the sustainability of the economic system in China: Beyond the double trap" were going.

The purpose of this research was to analyze whether is China's "state capitalism" sustainable, focusing on the relationship between economic growth and economic institutions. Based on the hypothesis that the Chinese economy is confined to a "double trap" consisting of the "middle-income trap" and "the transition trap" in order to escape from the "double trap" we investigated empirical analysis and insisted that the promotion of innovation and the realization of social justice are indispensable.

In August 2016, with the passing of Professor Kato, Kai KAJITANI took over the project of the Research Center for Modern Chinese Studies. And in March 2016, NIHU's project for contemporary Chinese regional research had been completed. In April 2016, in addition, Organization for Advanced and Integrated research of Kobe University was established, as the predecessor of Kobe University Interfaculty Initiative in the social Science. In this way, the environment surrounding our research base has significantly changed.

In response to these changes, Research Center for Modern Chinese Studies of Kobe University has been conducting research on the front lines of modern China's history, politics, and thought studies. We are trying to collaborate beyond faculties. And research activities are continued for the purpose of cross-sectoral and comprehensive understanding of modern China.

Meta-science and Technology Project: Methodology, Ethics and Policy from a Comprehensive Viewpoint

Project Leader MATSUDA Tsuyoshi

~Outline of Research Project~

This project aims at an advanced interdisciplinary research of humanities and social science by collaboration of studies of "methodology," "ethics" and "political economy" of science and technology. In this research project, especially on methods of research, values and norms, and factors of politics and economics are focused, because of their impacts on contemporary science and technology in our society. Through workshop of meta-science and technology (WMST), the ethical and political issues are not only confined to the risks of environmental and reproductive technologies socially recognized, but also taken in advance for facing with near future developments of science and technology. With both interdisciplinary and international activities, this project contributes to the promotion of fusion of humanities and social sciences in Kobe University. The collaboration of this project is executed by three clusters according to the points of view and disciplines.

【Methodology Cluster】

Advanced researches are concerning the foundations of social science, humanities and human science, in addition to natural science. The objects are experiments, simulations, social investigations, texts interpretation and action research, in order to discuss and raise the problems from the actual contexts of science and technology. As a result, it will also contribute to the improvement of curriculums of both undergraduates and graduate students for the parts of common education of methodology in future, by connecting the philosophical justification of pursuing "scientific truths" with social ethics and legal concerns about it.

【Ethics of Science and Technology Cluster】

Advanced researches are concerning the issues of research as norms of science, laws and ethics of intellectual properties, ethics of innovative medical cures and cares, public health ethics, engineering ethics, information ethics and environmental ethics (the

institutions and norms of sustainable society). Social efficiency of these researches is ensured by collaboration of researchers of applied ethics, STS (Science, Technology and Society), practitioners of science and technology communication, jurists related with intellectual properties and economists studying contemporary industries, in addition to the experts of science and technology.

【Political Economy Cluster】

The history and the present situation of "Knowledge Based Society" are analyzed on science and technology from various important aspects, in order to foresee the near future front constellation of research policy in the circumstance of global competition among universities and nations. As essential components, this project takes much more notice on the aspects of both accounts for the stakeholders and outreach activities or communications of/with researches, including consumers or citizens with various attributes as well as on those of policies and economies managed by states and companies. As a result, a sort of proposals for concrete cases will be issued for promoting sound and productive science and technology in our time together with other clusters.

Through these, a step will be made for the development of an advanced interdisciplinary research of humanities and social science in Kobe University, by making use of the strength of economics and jurisprudence in this university on the tradition of humanities about science and technology.

Interdisciplinary Research on Humanities Information:A New Information Sharing Model for Regional Studies

Project Leader OKUMURA Hiroshi

~Outline of Research Project~

Interdisciplinary research and new regional studies intended for nationwide sharing of humanities information in response to the internationalization of Japanese society and the aggravating local issues are one of the most urgent tasks for humanists and sociologists in Japan, and social demand is making it more pressing. Kobe University, which has been promoting pioneering, sustainable research in this field since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, is our research hub; collaborating with National Institutes for Humanities, a general research centre for human culture with its researchers working on new paradigm creation, this project formulates a nationwide sharing model of humanities-related information and improve regional studies based upon the model.

Research projects in this field, with Prof. Okumura its leading researcher, have awarded several grants, such as Construction of Local Historical Document Studies based on theory of Historical Materials Preservation at The Time of Large-scale Natural Disasters (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S), 2009-2013), and Establishment of Local Historical Materials Studies: Forming Disaster Subculture in the Post-3/11 World (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S), 2013-2017). Moreover, this year NIHU started transdisciplinary projects with universities and institutions in three sectors as its third mid-term goal and mid-term plan priority objective, among which is Restoration of Local Cultures after Social Transformation and Disasters in Japanese Archipelago that has a lot in common with our project from the beginning. In 2016, our school agreed with National Museum of Japanese History, an institution belonging to NIHU, to cooperatively promote the Establishment of General Historical Materials Studies and Development of Foundation for Research Resources Shared-utilisation, as well as to conduct education research on the academic process of discovery, preservation, and application of local historical materials and ways to assess their social value as local historical cultural assets.

There has been no nationwide information-sharing platform for humanists in universities and organisations in Japan; thus, in partnership with NIHU, NMJH, and National Institutes for Cultural Heritage which governs national museums and National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, this project takes the initiative in this field and lays the foundation for similar platforms for cognate academic bodies in the country. Kobe University has accumulated a vast amount of domestic, international historical materials since the opening of Kobe Port and the university itself, promoting not only systematic materials gathering after disasters such as the 1995 earthquake and interdisciplinary studies for facilitating the collection but also research on historical materials utilisation in local communities and on its humanistic social implementation. These achievements play a key role in this project.

Research on the Public Policies on Migration, Multiculturalization, and Welfare for the Regeneration of Communities in European, Asian and Japanese Societies

Project Leader SAKAI Kazunari

~Outline of Research Project~

In this research, "exploration of various problems due to intensified modern migration are creating on a global scale" is a main and pressing issue, and its purpose is to establish and develop an international center of an advanced research, "immigration research" located

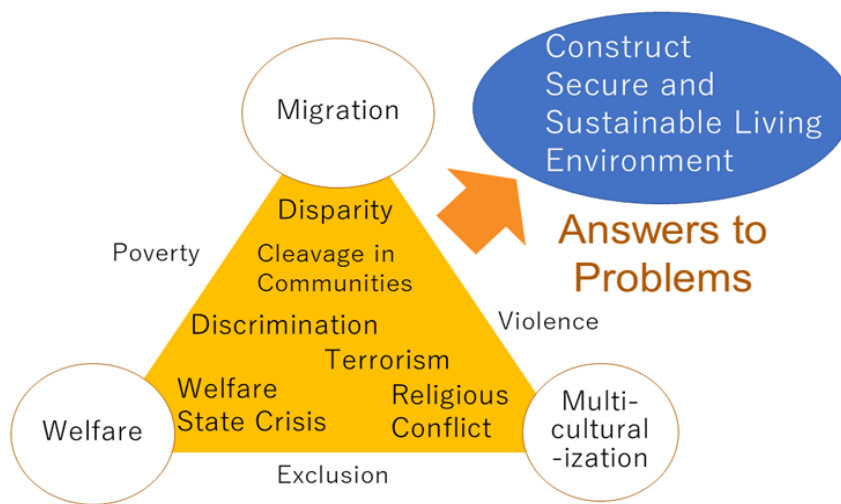
in the boundary area of humanities and social sciences.

(1) Research Theme

In the modern society, there are fears which concern the rise of social, political and economic instability within the receiving society due to intensified migration, divisions in the local community due to the advancement of multiculturalization, and an erosion of citizens' sense of solidarity with one another, which is critical for welfare redistribution and which is leading to fluctuations in the welfare state. Coupled with the long-term population dynamics of an aging society and declining birth rate, these three societal changes not only threaten the stability and maintenance of a developed society but also confront us with serious concerns about the human rights and welfare of migrants and their families.

The rise of populist groups that advocate anti-immigration in the EU countries can be said to be one of its reflections. This project responds to the needs of modern society and promotes advanced research that leads to social contribution on this subject (Figure 1).

[Figure 1]



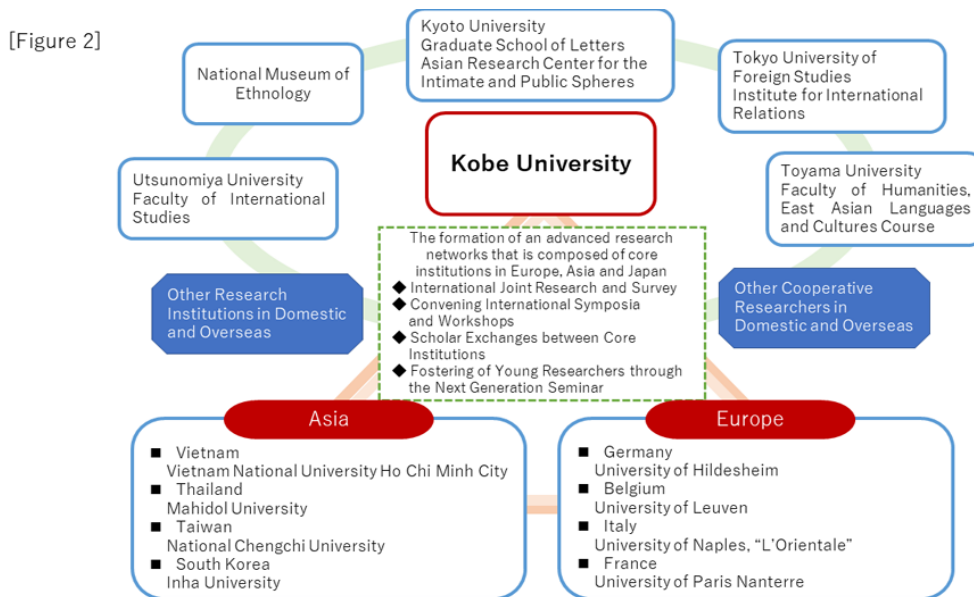
(2) Establishment of Research Center by an International Research Network

"Research on the Public Policies on Migration, Multiculturalization and Welfare for the Regeneration of Communities in European, Asian and Japanese Societies" of Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University, has been adopted as the Core-to-Core Program (A: Advanced Research Networks) by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2016-2020). It is divided into six joint research groups and promotes interdisciplinary research collaboration from multiple viewpoints.

- ① Borders and Human Rights for Migrants
- ② Governance on Migration
- ③ Intimacy/Publicness beyond Borders
- ④ Localized Multiculturalism and Nationalism
- ⑤ Cultural Policies about Immigration and Refugee
- ⑥ Migration Dynamics and Adaptation to Host Societies

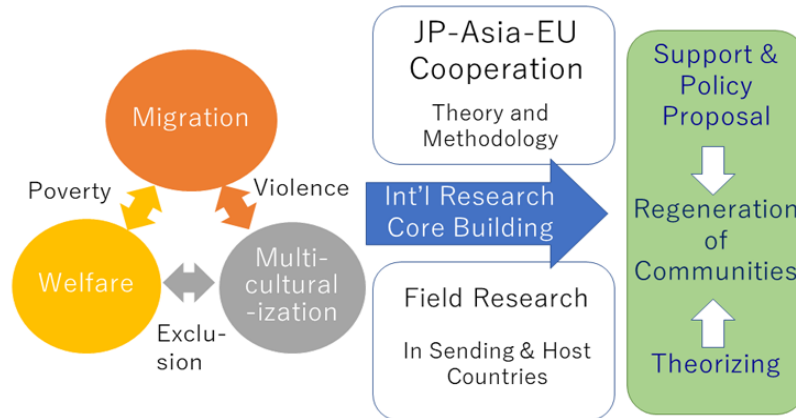
Based on this research project, we are working closely with not only major research institutes in Japan but also with research centers in the EU and Asia including the various departments of humanities and social sciences of Kobe university.

With regard to the problems that large-scale contemporary migration is causing in various parts of the world, leading researchers from each country are working on joint research across research areas and borders (Figure 2).



We hold international symposium or workshops every year (average two times) around the world, and through mutual research presentations and joint discussions, we will pursue the issue of "What kind of knowledge and policies are needed in order for contemporary society of Japan, EU, Asia, and so on to construct sustainable and safe living areas under globalization and intensified migration" (Figure 3).

[Figure 3]



(3) Goals of Research Aimed at the Future

In a contemporary society, social, political and economic upheavals, such as the rapid increase in migration and multiculturalization worldwide, are no longer within the scope of joint research at the national level. Rather, rapid joint research and discussions by international research networks that encompass both sending and receiving societies are needed.

Sustainable Growth Potential of the Market Economy

Project Leader HAMORI Shigeyuki

~Outline of Research Project~

In traditional economics, economic growth is considered to be the source of individual wealth and therefore a high-priority policy issue. However, today's society faces a variety of problems and constraints that impede economic growth, and thus there is some doubt over the sustainability of economic growth.

The first concern is the exposure of economic growth to external risks such as natural disasters, pandemics, and financial crises. Some examples are earthquakes and tsunamis, new strains of influenzas and other Infectious Diseases, the financial crisis of 2007-2008, and the European debt crisis. In particular, economic globalization has brought the economies of different countries closer, and these issues have become vitally important.

A second concern relates to food and environmental constraints. Population growth in developing countries has led to shortages of resources such as food, water, and energy; moreover, the environmental damage due to industrialization in China and other emerging countries has become a serious problem.

The third concern is the burden of overpopulation and over-industrialization. The accumulation of people and industries in some cities has a positive side, acting as the main engine to drive economic growth, but also has several negative effects.

The purpose of this research project is to examine whether sustainable economic growth can be achieved under these constraints. It is a joint effort between an economics researcher and an information technology researcher, using data science to tackle the problem. With the socio-analytic strengths of economics and data manipulation of information technology, one can use Big Data to visualize data to create value. These two functions are important factors in research that are in great demand today, and form the main characteristics of this research project.

Specifically, this study involves the following tasks.

- We analyze environmental and energy issues from the perspective of sustainable growth potential.
- We analyze population and food issues in terms of sustainable growth potential.
- We analyze issues of poverty and disparity in developing countries from the perspective of sustainable growth potential.
- We visualize the risks associated with external shocks (mainly financial risk) and use them in economic analysis.