

JCSS Newsletter



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1. Preface

The Japan Consortium for Sociological Societies (JCSS) is a crosscutting organization linking the academic societies related to sociology and social welfare studies in the Science Council of Japan. JCSS's purpose is to promote sociological and social welfare research in Japan, in particular by encouraging cooperation between academic associations. Currently a lot of leading associations in Japan are members of the Consortium.

JCSS had published a booklet and CD-R, *Messages to the World*, at the World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama in 2014 in order to introduce Japanese sociological and social welfare studies to researchers all over the world. Today, with the holding of the World Congress of Sociology in Toronto in 2018, JCSS decided to report the current state of sociological and social welfare research in Japan again. I hope that this collection of messages from 16 associations will be useful to people with sustained interest to the relationships between Japan and other countries around the world.

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2. Messages from Sociological Societies in Japan

(1) The Japan Sociological Society

In Quest of Global Commuality: Japanese Sociology in the Post-Yokohama Era

Kazuo Seiyama,
President of the Japan Sociological Society

The Japan Sociological Society has successfully hosted the ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama 2014, which had been our longstanding wish. Now that this has been achieved, Japanese sociology aims to further develop in order to contribute to the study of sociological problems of the contemporary world.

The world that today's sociology faces is very different from the one when the ISA was established about 70 years ago. First, since that time there has been large-scale social change bringing about the age called postmodern or the second modernity. This caused a fundamental reconsideration of classical concepts such as class and nuclear family, and eventually made it inevitable for sociological theory itself to be thoroughly restructured. Second, with the progress of globalization since the 1990s, social reality and problems across and beyond nation states such as immigration, mobility or the global environment have become increasingly important. As a result, it has become necessary for sociological research to take a global perspective beyond methodological nationalism.

Japanese sociology has also undergone significant transformation. For a long time, the most important question for Japanese sociology has been "modernization". It reflected the identity problem of

a society that had been obsessively conscious of its retardedness behind the Western world. In a sense it was a nationalistic question from the particularistic perspective of Japan. However, as stated in Messages to the World from Japanese Sociological and Social Welfare Studies Societies, published by the Japan Consortium for Sociological Societies four years ago, Japanese sociology in recent years has actively turned to various problems of the globalizing society.

The globalization of Japanese society may be seen in the following phenomena: The number of foreign workers in Japan is gradually increasing and the number of tourists visiting Japan has dramatically increased. The street corners of Japan are now full of ethnically diverse people. Among Japanese sociologists also, international research collaboration and dissemination are increasing steadily. And to promote this trend further, the Japan Sociological Society have made agreements on academic exchange with the Korean Sociological Association, the Chinese Sociological Association and the Taiwanese Sociological Association. In addition we provide travel grants to young overseas researchers to participate in the JSS annual conference and make presentations.

After 2011 one of the major tasks of Japanese sociology is research on disasters caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake including the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant and reconstruction from those disasters. Study areas that have been actively explored include the sociology of disaster, sociology of science and technology, volunteer activities, revitalization of local communities, and the like. These areas are also deeply related to problems of social solidarity and civil society, and many theoretical as well as empirical studies have been undertaken on social trust and social capital.

Also, for Japanese society, various problems brought about by the declining birthrate and aging population are becoming urgent issues, especially the problems of childcare, nursing care and the sustainability of the social security system. While the family has been a traditional main theme of Japanese sociology, recent research in this area is focusing more on issues of birthrates, policies for aging society, or nursing care. Research concerning lifestyle diversity is also increasing, on such topics as LGBT+ and surname after marriage. In these areas, many Japanese sociologists participate in the process of governmental policymaking.

Today, not only Japan but the whole world is faced with new problems which cannot be grasped from classical sociological viewpoints such as modernization and industrialization. On one hand, the issue of social inequality which once focused on class is now centered on the problem of social inclusion of minorities including gender and sexuality minorities, ethnicity and immigrants, disabled persons and the elderly. On the other hand, the fear of increasing social division and fissure is becoming grave, as seen, for example, in ethnic minorities' movements for independence from current nation states, Brexit, exclusion of immigrants, and hate speech. Distrust of not only government but also the mass media and intellectuals has increased, bringing serious conflict and instability to some societies.

The urgent tasks for today's sociology are to develop new conceptual structures and theoretical constructs addressing these problems, analyze the structures of the problems, and explore paths toward solutions, in a sense toward a global communality. Toward that end, sociological research itself will have to develop through closer collaboration and competition in a global academic community

beyond national and regional areas.

Our hope is that Japanese sociologists will cooperate further with sociologists of the world to address these tasks.

Building a New Academic Horizon: A Challenge from East Asia

(Daishiro Nomiya Chuo University)

Over the years, the Japan Sociological Society has fostered cooperative relationships with neighboring countries. Under the scheme of bilateral exchange, scholarly conferences and joint projects have been held between Japan, on the one hand, and Korea, Taiwan and China, on the other. These exchanges bore fruit, adding a new dimension to the development of Japanese sociology. However, the effects of these cooperative efforts were relatively confined to a small scholarly circle, as they were demarcated by national boundaries.

In 2017, a new academic horizon emerged when sociologists from sociological associations in Korea, China, and Japan convened and declared the establishment of the East Asian Sociological Association (EASA). Moving beyond a bilateral scheme, the EASA aims to develop knowledge about East Asian society by fostering scholarly exchanges in East Asia and beyond.

The origin of the EASA can be traced back to 2001, when a small group of sociologists from China, Korea and Japan voluntarily started an academic discussion group, the East Asian Sociologists Network (EASN) as it was called later. The emergence of the EASN was received as a "shock" by many, as it symbolized a huge reversal to previous domain negativities hovering over the aca-

demic world in East Asian countries, in which relationships had often been marred by the brutal and agonizing historical past of the 20th century.

With its free and voluntary participation style based on friendship and mutual respect, the EASA greatly impacted the interaction patterns of scholars residing in East Asian countries. It instantly became a new platform for academic exchange; scholars and students gather every year, and the venues for academic conferences move from one place to another.

Following in the footsteps of the EASN, the EASA is now set for a new beginning. The inaugural congress is scheduled in Japan, in March 2019. As an organization open to all, it aspires to be an intellectual hub for the production of knowledge on and wisdom of the East Asia through scholarly input from all around the world.

**Toward a Sustainable Future:
The Nuclear Issue, the Environment, and Recovery from the Tsunami Disaster**

Koichi Hasegawa (Tohoku University)

The tsunami disaster on 11 March 2011 is the largest disaster in Japan since the Second World War and the largest in any developed country. More than 18,000 people died or are missing. This disaster triggered the Fukushima nuclear accident, the second largest nuclear accident after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. It revealed that Japan is a seriously earthquake-prone country with a high risk of nuclear accidents. The ruins of the towns most devastated by the tsunami also reminded Japan of the heavy risks with which our society lives.

Among the many lives that were devastated, the most tragic and painful cases are the evacuees

from the area around the Fukushima nuclear plant. Many of them had been living in the no-go zone within 20km of the melted-down nuclear plant, and others were from areas outside that zone where for several years no entry was allowed unless authorized. Even now, seven years after the accident, about 60,000 people are still in evacuation, half from within Fukushima Prefecture. They lost their homes, beautiful farmland, fisheries, customers, workplaces and their hope. Many had their family lives destroyed. The national government policy of urging evacuees to return home has made them distrustful and anxious. Their communities stand at a crossroads between rebirth and extinction.

Many sociologists have been conducting field work dealing with the disaster, the evacuees, devastated communities, and post-quake recovery process, as well as urban protests for denuclearization. They have taken various points of view: urban, rural and environmental sociology, and sociologies of disaster, science, media and social movements. Some of them have been involved in policy proposals for relief of evacuees, community recovery, nuclear regulation and shifts of energy sources. The disaster has served as a call to rethink the relationship between nature and society, and begin planning for a truly sustainable future.

Changes of Family and Gender Relations in Japan: Caregiving and Household Labor

Masako Ishii-Kuntz (Ochanomizu University)

Japanese families have been influenced by significant demographic changes such as rapid population ageing, delay in marriage and the birth of the first child, and an increase in female labor force

participation. These demographic changes necessitate the adjustment of the traditional (and gendered) family roles, pointing in the direction of more equally shared caregiving and household labor between husbands and wives.

The ageing of society and delay in child birth have recently resulted in the phenomenon of “double care” which refers to middle-age people being responsible for both child and elder care. In fact, approximately 27.1% of Japanese in their 30s are expected to be involved in double care within the next few years. It was also found that 66.5% of women who are involved in double care have preschool-age children, and the majority of these double caregivers reported high level of stress.

While the overall Japanese population has been ageing, the number of three-generation households has declined. This means that many young Japanese families cannot depend on grandparents to provide childcare and housework. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of mothers have entered the labor force, making it necessary for their husbands to be more actively involved in childcare and housework. The Japanese government has been making concerted efforts to increase ikumen (childcaring men) in hopes that the paternal involvement would encourage women to have more babies.

Changes in gendered caregiving roles and household labor in Japanese families can be studied using quantitative data sets such as the National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ) collected by the Japan Society of Family Sociology (JSFS), and the Japanese General Social Survey (JGSS), both of which have been made publicly available. The NFRJ data, which include the follow-up data, were initially collected in 1998, and the collection of qualitative data is currently underway. For more

information, see

<http://nfrj.org/index-e.htm>.

Toward an Equal Society: Mathematical Sociology, Quantitative Sociology, and Study of Social Stratification and Social Mobility

Yoshimichi Sato (Tohoku University)

Japanese sociologists specialized in these fields have studied patterns of inequality. An interesting finding is that the inequality between regular and non-regular workers is much larger than that between social classes. Income of regular workers is much higher than that of non-regular workers; regular workers have more job security than non-regular workers; regular workers enjoy ampler social security than non-regular workers. In other words, it is not social class but rather employment status that counts in contemporary Japan.

Many specialists in the study of social inequality have analyzed the datasets of the Social Stratification and Social Mobility National Survey, which has been conducted every decade since 1955. The datasets are available through the Center for Social Research and Data Archives of the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, at <http://csrda.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/>.

Mathematical sociologists in Japan have explained patterns of inequality with the help of mathematical models. The relative risk aversion model explains persistent inequality of educational opportunity between social classes. Some Japanese mathematical sociologists found limitations of their model and proposed a more general and logically consistent model, which also explains recent declines in inequality of educational opportunity in

European societies. The Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology is the major player in the study of mathematical sociology and has been supporting the development of excellent younger sociologists.

Why do they study social inequality? Their ultimate goal is to realize a society in which equality of opportunity is secured. For this goal, quantitative sociologists study patterns of inequality using sophisticated statistical models, and mathematical sociologists build mathematical models to understand the mechanisms producing inequality. With the help of their quantitative analysis and mathematical modeling, we can envisage the creation of an equal society.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and Sports Sociology

Kimio Ito (Kyoto Sangyo University)

In 2020, Tokyo will host its second Olympics. The mascot characters have been decided, and a construction rush is under way in Tokyo, centered on sports facilities. The 1964 Olympics were a symbolic event for the rebuilding of Japan's economic and social infrastructure in the wake of the Second World War. What kind of meaning will the second Tokyo Olympics take on for Japanese society in the future? Not all of the prospects are bright.

Many monographs and articles analyzing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have been published in the past several years by sports sociologists. Most of them take a critical view of Japan's second Olympics. It is true that there are many problems, such as the cozy relationship between huge construc-

tion companies and politicians, environmental destruction in the cities, moves by the government to build a new nationalism through the Olympics, and sexual harassment and bullying of female athletes. The proper role of sports sociology is to cast a critical eye on these problems associated with the Olympics.

On the other hand, during this Tokyo event, the Paralympics will attract as much attention as the Olympics, and definitely much more than previously. The quiet measures aimed at abolition of discrimination and prejudice against disabled people, as well as their social inclusion, are spreading. Sharing the viewpoint of "sports for all" might be finally taking root in Japanese society.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will, in various senses, definitely provide much material for considering the present conditions and future development of Japanese society. It will be worthwhile for sociologists around the world to pay close attention to Japan's second Olympics.

Pop Culture, Subculture and Contemporary Culture in Japan

Shunya Yoshimi (University of Tokyo)

There are many different names for cultural practices in our age: pop culture, subculture, popular culture, mass culture, contemporary culture, etc. Until the end of the 19th century, as the border between elite and ordinary people was relatively clear, we could separate popular culture from that of the elite. Since then the border is very vague and pop culture has become the hegemonic realm of cultural practices consumed by the whole society.

From the Western perspective, Japanese pop

culture is often represented by manga, anime, and gaming. If we observe it from the inside, they are only parts of contemporary culture in Japan. We need to consider many of other cultural practices including pop music, TV dramas, street fashion, and pop art. Thus sociological studies on Japanese contemporary culture should cover a large range of fields.

This is the “contact zone” among younger researchers of sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, cultural history, film studies, gender studies, and even economics. Some of them are more interested in the production side: media industries, promotion strategies, and creators. Others are more interested in the consumption side: audience interpretation and performances by young people. Yet the expansion of the internet presents researchers with a new situation in which the two sides cannot be clearly separated.

In order to develop theoretical perspectives, young researchers make efforts to introduce gender and class dimensions of culture in the analysis of such phenomena as karaoke, cosplay and maid cafés. At the same time, previous work on pop culture, subculture and contemporary culture in Japan includes many highly evaluated studies integrating theory and empirical research.

Although many sociological concepts and methodologies are still effective in the field, the English-language discussions on contemporary Japanese culture are being held mainly in the field of cultural studies, such as the annual international “Cultural Typhoon” conferences of the Association for Cultural Typhoon.

(2) Japan Association for Urban Sociology (JAUS :

<http://urbansocio.sakura.ne.jp/english.html>)

About Japan Association for Urban Sociology (JAUS)

The Japan Association for Urban Sociology (JAUS) was founded in 1982. Through the cooperation of its members, it aims to contribute to the advancement and development of sociological studies of cities and urbanization in theoretical, empirical, and applied aspects. JAUS totals 290 members (as of September 2017).

The annual JAUS assembly is held in autumn. It consists of paper presentations, a symposium, and panel discussions on a focused theme. Occasional special sessions and round tables are held to coincide with contemporary urban issues. In 2010, we signed a memorandum of agreement for exchange with the Korean Association of Regional Studies. Since then we have taken turns in sending scholars to present papers at each other's annual assembly. The Annals of Japan Association for Urban Sociology is the association's annual journal, with the cumulative publication of 35 volumes (as of 2017).

Activity of JAUS after the ISA Yokohama 2014

In the book *Message to the World* (2014), we introduced the history and future prospect of urban sociology in Japan. This work was edited by the Japan Consortium for Sociological Societies and published upon the ISA Yokohama in 2014. As an introduction to our recent activities, the following are the outline and papers presented at the symposia of our annual assemblies after 2014.

1. *The Modern Paradigm of Community Theory Reconsidered: Modern Japan and Contemporary Asia* (2017)

Japanese theories of urban sociology, developed upon urbanization in periods of high economic growth, do not necessarily match the social reality of today's era of rapid globalization. However, a new paradigm is yet to emerge. There are hopes, on the other hand, that rapidly growing Asian cities might find relevance in our "traditional" urban sociological theories of Japan. The symposium attempted to connect the history of Japan's urban sociology and the studies on developing cities of Asia. Following are the papers presented:

- (1) Inter-Generational Succession and Internationalization of Urban Sociology (Kenji MUROI)
- (2) Studies of Developing Countries: Does the Paradigm Converge? (Natsumi ARATAME)
- (3) From the Pitfall to Diversity of Urban Community: Case of a Gated Community in Bali (Kosuke HISHIYAMA)

2. Urban Problems and Discourses of Gentrification in the Age of Bubble Economy: Why weren't the "Ji-age" Phenomena Described as "Gentrification"? (2016)

The symposium discussed the reasons why gentrification theory was not a focus of study for a long time in Japan, reconsidering the reorganization of urban structures during the bubble economy (late 1980's to early 1990's)

- (1) Who Stole Another Future of the City Landscape in Tokyo?: Financialization, State-led Neoliberal Policy, and the Ideology of "Livable City"(Takashi MACHIMURA)
- (2) Expanding Disparity and Polarization of Metropolitan Areas after 1980s: Time-lagged Gentrification as a 'Bloodless Revolution'(Kenji HASHIMOTO)
- (3) Community Movement and Social Change

during the 1980s Bubble Economy and its Aftermath (Masaki URANO)

3. Community Reproduction by Indigenous People and Migrants after the Great East Japan Earthquake (2016)

The symposium discussed the migration and transition of urban and regional society after the Great East Japan Earthquake (March 11, 2011), from the viewpoint of "indigeneity and fluidity" as well as "reproduction of community."

- (1) Settlement and Mobility after the Great East-Japan Earthquake: Reconstructing Local Identity (Masaki URANO)
- (2) Reorganizing Lives of Nuclear Evacuees and Revitalizing the Local Community: A Case Study of Tomioka, Fukushima Prefecture (Yuko MATSUONO)

4. Restructuring of Urban Middle Class and Residential Space (2014)

This symposium highlighted the contemporary middle-class in urban areas in relation to the reorganization of the residential space based on the empirical studies on gentrification, phenomenon of returning to the city center, and gated communities of Japan. The following are the papers presented:

- (1) Gentrification as a Value Struggle in the Global City (Nozomu SHIBUYA)
- (2) Upper-middle Class Condominium Residents and their Local Lives in the Era of Urban Core Revival: The Cases of Chuo Ward in Tokyo and Kita Ward in Osaka (Manabu AJISAKA)
- (3) Safety Consciousness of Security Town Residents: Gated Communities in Japan (Yuichi NAKANO)

The Annals of Japan Association for Urban Sociology is usually a special issue journal that publishes papers presented in the latest symposium. The following is the list of special issue titles from 2001 to 2013 (published in 2014):

Vol.32 (2014) City Planning and the City Development Based on "The City Idea"

Vol.31 (2013) Urban Sociology: Its Trace and Perspective

Vol.30 (2012) Urban Sociological Approaches to Poverty

Vol.29 (2011) Visual Research and Urban Sociology

Vol.28 (2010) Urban Sociology from the Perspective of Social Mobility and Generation

Vol.27 (2009) Suburban New Town Development and Local Memory

Vol.26 (2008) Community-Oriented Welfare, Present, and Future: Power of Urban Sociology

Vol.25 (2007) Socio-Spatial Structure and Its Change in Three Metropolitan Areas: Sociology Meets Geography

Vol.24 (2006) City and Youth: Between "Urban Youth" and "City of Youth"

Vol.23 (2005) Reading the Metropolis of Osaka from the Viewpoint of "Inner-Ring" Area

Vol.22 (2004) Urban Sociology and Environmental Problems: From the Viewpoint of Sustainability

Vol.21 (2003) Critiques and Expectations from Related Disciplines

Vol.20 (2002) The Scope of Japanese Urban Sociology

Relationship with ISA

The association's newsletter and website include information on the ISA-World Congress of Sociol-

ogy as well as RC21. (Call for papers from conferences and workshops).

Other activities

In 2002, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of its foundation, the association published a 3-volume series entitled Urban Sociology: Selected Readers (I. Modern Urbanism; II. Urban Space and Urban Communities; III. Political Economy of the City.) This was a compilation of basic literature written in Japanese as well as in foreign languages translated into Japanese.

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(3) The Japan Research Society of Regional and Community Studies

The Japan Research Society of Regional and Community Studies, the predecessor of JARCS, was inaugurated in 1976 with 119 members. It was re-named the Japan Association of Regional and Community Studies (JARCS) in 1984. The primary aim of JARCS is to stimulate open debate on regional and community studies of Japan.

JARCS has a membership of about 400 in January 2018. A member comes from diverse backgrounds including urban sociology, rural sociology, and environmental sociology.

JARCS has a board that consists of a president, a secretary general, a treasury, and other trustees. It also has several committees such as a research

committee that decides on the theme and speakers for the annual symposia, an editorial committee for the annals, an award committee to give prizes such as the best book prize, and a committee to encourage international exchange among the members.

JARCS has annual conference, and publishes its own journal, *Annals of Regional and Community Studies* since 1979. Articles on the *Annals* after 2014 are available in J-STAGE website (<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp>). The newsletter is published six times a year. Research seminars are held four times a year. Its official website is as follows: <http://jarcs.sakura.ne.jp>.

Table 1 shows the title of special issues in the *Annals of Regional and Community Studies* since 2008.

Table 1

The title of special issues in the *Annals of Regional and Community Studies* since 2008.

2008	Shrinking Society and Local Community Today
2009	Community Regeneration in the Shrinking Society
2010	The Actualities of the Community Regeneration in the Local Area
2011	Perspectives on Regional Revitalization and Regional and Community
2012	State, City-Region and Community under Rescaling
2013	Rescaling Theory and its Japanese Context

2014	The Great East Japan Earthquake: Problems in the Regeneration and Regional Community Studies
2015	The Great East Japan Earthquake: Vision and Reality of “Revitalization”
2016	Considering “Revitalization” and “Extinction of Hinterlands” Policies from Local Point of View
2017	Rebuilding the Social Relationships according to Common Resources in Local Communities

(4) Japan Society of Family Sociology (JSFS): Towards the Active Internationalization of Research in Family Sociology, 2014-2018

The Japan Society of Family Sociology (JSFS) is an academic organization established in 1991 to promote theoretical, empirical, and practical research concerning families, so as to contribute to the development of both individuals and society. The details and history of JSFS and its previous organization, and the methods and data used in Japanese family sociological research were described in a previous paper, “Following Changes and Consistency of Japanese Families: Message to World Sociologists from the Japan Society of Family Sociology,” published by the Japan Consortium for Sociological Societies in 2014. JSFS has been one of the most active academic sociological societies in Japan, and its major work is the publication of the scholarly journal *Japanese Journal of Family Sociology* (JJFS) and its sponsorship of annual meetings and other academic activities.

At present, JSFS is making concerted efforts towards the internationalization of its research. For

this purpose, it mainly focuses on three actions: publishing articles written in English in JJFS that show research findings concerning characteristics of Japanese families; providing quantitative data for public use, as described in detail below; and expanding comparative studies, particularly of families in the context of East Asia. In doing so, since 2014 JSFS has been actively organizing opportunities for discussion, such as symposia and panels, as outlined below.

At the 2014 ISA meeting in Yokohama, JSFS held two sessions: the RC06/RC33 session, *Panel Data Analysis of Families Worldwide*; and the RC06 session, *Family Studies Based on Quantitative Analyses of Surveys*. Both sessions focus on quantitative research methods, mainly using the National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ) data. The NFRJ project has been planned and conducted by a committee within JSFS. It includes a series of cross-sectional surveys (1998, 2003, 2008, and 2018 which is ongoing), a retrospective survey with life course questions, and panel studies (NFRJ-08 Panel) that followed the 2008 survey participants from 2008 to 2012. These data are provided for public use by the Social Science Japan Data Archive (SSJDA) and ICPSR. The 2014 ISA meeting offered valuable opportunities to expand our family research network.

At the 2014 JSFS Annual Meeting in Tokyo there were two international sessions:

1. "What Are Important Issues in Stepfamily Research?: Perspectives on Social and Cultural Contexts." Key words from the abstracts of papers included remarriage, stepfamilies, stepchildren, stepparents, clinical work with stepfamilies, socio-cultural contexts, conceptual framework, and United

States.

2. "Attitudes of Female Students toward Supporting Elderly Parents in Major Cities in Asia." Key words were comparative research, elderly care, female university students, family reciprocity, care norms, foreign domestic helpers, family responsibility, social service needs, and six Asian Cities (Seoul, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Nanjing, Singapore, Hong Kong).

At the 2015 JSFS Annual Meeting in Osaka there were two international sessions:

1. "Work-Family Balance of Families with Small Children: How to Achieve Gender Equality in Parenting." Key words were population and labor statistics, policies related to work-life balance, child wellbeing, working parents, transnational, Germany, Netherlands, and Sweden.
2. "Contemporary Family Research." Key words included attitude toward filial obligation, single parents, isolation, network, ideology, family policy, East Asian Social Survey (EASS), Comparative Asian Family Survey (CAFS), and ISSP2012.

At the 2016 JSFS Annual Meeting in Tokyo there were three international sessions:

1. "A comparative Study between Japan and Korea: Discrimination against Single Parent Families, Their Exclusion from Society and Social Support." Key words were single mothers, unwed mothers, child care, self-independence, difficulty in living, minorities, networking,

Japan and Korea.

2. "Changes and Current Issues on Families in East Asia: Toward the East Asian Social Survey 2016." Key words were East Asia, gender equality, work and family, family structure, aging care, gender role attitudes (GRA), inter-generational transmission, and Taiwan Youth Project.
3. "In Search of Plural Ways for Globalization of Japanese Family Sociology: Through Eyes of International Students from Asian Regions." Key words included globalization in Asia, Chinese family construction, difficulties and conflicts, job-hunting activities.

At the 2017 JSFS Annual Meeting in Kyoto there were two international sessions:

1. "Care networks and Intimacy: The Implications of a Comparison of China, Japan, and Denmark." Key words included elderly care, intimacy, scientific child care, care networks, and Denmark.
2. "Families in Japan and Asia: Current Situation and Change Based on Social Surveys." Key words were NFRJ, EASS, CAFS, family changes, family attitude, and low birthrate and longevity.

The 2018 JSFS Annual Meeting will be held on September 8-9, at Chuo University, Tokyo. The main guest speaker will be Dr. Chin-Chun Yi, the current president of ISA RC06 (Family Research). Active participation and discussions at the meeting are anticipated. For details, please visit the website

below.

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http://www.wdc-jp.com/jsfs/index_e.html

(5) Japan Sociological Association for Social Analysis (SASA: 日本社会分析学会)

SASA is an association of small-scale but with a long history of half a century. It was originally launched as The Kyushu University Sociological Association in 1966 and got a fresh start as an independent and extended association in 1985. Out of 155 members, the proportion from abroad is around ten percent. Toward the goal to make analysis of modern societies by developing sociological theory and methods, it has held regular research meetings twice a year (134th as of the winter of 2017) and published an annual journal, *Social Analysis* (44 volumes in total as of 2017). The journal includes some articles in English and all the contents (except the recent volume) are freely available to every reader in the world at our homepage. Hereby, we summarize our distinctive research activities since 1994 from two dimensions: symposiums and special sessions organized and special issues edited. (Please refer *Message to the World* (1994) and our website for our activities in details.)

●Symposiums and Special Sessions at the Meeting

Symposium: **For Sociological Restoration and Disaster Prevention** (133rd, July 2017). This symposium focused on earthquake disaster from the viewpoint of restoration and disaster prevention. Disaster is one of the main issues that we have continuously studied, especially for disasters in Kyushu area such as Shimabara volcanic hazard between 1991 and 1995 and Kumamoto earthquake disaster in 2016.

Special Lecture: "Challenge of a Government Think Tank for Regional Revival," (129th, August 2015). Lecture by a political scientist, Mitsugu HIMAKI (Center of Policy and Promotion, Sasebo City), who currently works for Sasebo city government. In this way we have developed urban and rural sociology in local and practical settings.

Symposium: **Social Support and Solidarity** (128th, December 2014). Held at Soochow University in Taipei, this international symposium focused on the problems on support and caring for children, elderly, poor, and isolated. Six papers presented at the meeting were published in *Social Analysis* Vol. 43. As illustrated by this symposium, many of our members are working on regional welfare problems.

Young Sociologists' Session: **Grass-roots Right and Gender: From the viewpoint of Bashing against Gender Equality** (127th, August 2014). This was a special session planned and coordinated by young members, aiming at promoting young blood and new talent.

Symposium: **City Planning in Aging Societies: New Form of City Planning by Collaboration** (126th, December 2013). This symposium was held to discuss practical problems of aging and city planning in a local situation by inviting community leaders in Taketa City for speakers. Three papers presented in the meeting were published in *Social Analysis* Vol.42. Thus, urbanization and community issues have been our main concern.

●Special Issues in *Social Analysis* (Themes of issues and main title of articles)

Vol.45, 2018: (Forthcoming) **Religion and Community**

Vol.44, 2017: **Social Welfare and Community**
"Common ties and social interaction of participants of illness / Participants of illness with common ties and social interaction," "Imagination in the street welfare," "Expectations and problems of social isolation prevention through elderly salon activity," "A study on the development and utilization of new service in preventive long-term care and daily life support for business," "The complicity and twist between the civil society reform and neo-liberalism."

Vol.43, 2016: **Sociological Approaches to Social Impacts of Disaster**

"Restoration from great East Japan earthquake and regional revitalization," "The problems of life-reconstruction and communities for the evacuees by Fukushima nuclear disaster," "Local community under estimation of huge earthquake damage," "Psychological vulnerabilities in tsunami evacuation behavior."

Vol.42, 2015: **The Issue of Children and Child-**

rearing: Current Status and Problems

“Social participation and problems in daily life faced by mothers of children with developmental disorders,” “Nurture of the children of the non-blood relative as the families,” “Community morale in the member of family support center,” “Mainstreaming of community-based welfare and care support activity,” “Governmental demographic policy, family trends and low child birth rates since WW II.”

Vol.41, 2014: Social Structure and Social Capital

“Difficulties in measuring communal social capital,” “The social structure of community in terms of interorganizational network,” “Social capital and trends of suicide in contemporary Japan,” “Net-base theory of social capital.”

In Summary, the foothold of SASA is to analyze urbanization and regional social change, from the viewpoint of the community, family, welfare, and disaster, by developing sociological frameworks in which theoretical and empirical approaches are well balanced. On this foothold members have actively conducted cooperative research projects and published many books (most are introduced by the book reviews in our Journal.) The best-suited blend of bonding and bridging networks, in other words, balancing coexistence of *gemeinschaft* and *gesellschaft* has driven our research activities.

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(6) The Japan Welfare Sociology Association

Message to the World from the Japan Welfare Sociology Association

The Japan Welfare Sociology Association (JWSA) was officially established on June 28th, 2003. It is thus a relatively young academic association. However, there is a long history of welfare sociology in Japan prior to the establishment of the JWSA.

In the 1980s, while there were heated arguments on the “crisis of the welfare state” in European countries, Japanese social scientists had only just begun to study the concept. Japan was a “belated welfare state.” After the late 1980s, a comparative research project was carried out at the National Institute of Social Security, headed by a younger generation of sociologists. At the same time, sociologists were conducting academic research on the practices of social work and social support.

These different streams of sociological research formed the basis of the JWSA in 2003. Since then, the number of JWSA members has been on the rise, amounting to 478 as of February 2018. The JWSA has sponsored an annual meeting every year since 2003. Recent research presentation topics have included the declining birthrate/aging population, risk society, disparity society due to globalization, deterioration of the employment environment, new poverty, and social discrimination against LGBT.

The president of the JWSA recently addressed the annual meeting: “There are three major modern social changes that welfare sociology should

address; aging society, risk society, and globalization. Welfare sociological perspectives for analyzing these phenomena include views on the rise and decline of the intermediate groups, pluralistic visions to the economy and society, attention to the mode for distribution of social resources (self-help, reciprocity, redistribution, and market exchange), perception on the social arrangement of relations (intimate sphere, cooperative sphere, public sphere, and market sphere), and awareness of the conflict and synergy of norm and desire.”

The other major work of the JWSA is the publication of an annual scholarly journal (the Journal of Welfare Sociology), which carries original papers, book reviews, and featured articles based on the past year’s symposium. The papers address a wide range of issues, including themes such as care (elderly care and child care), volunteers, NGOs/NPOs, and comparative social policy. The main subjects of the journals published from 2014 to 2017 were welfare-related volunteers, planning capabilities for community welfare program, international retirement migration, disability movements, crime victim support, care work, elderly welfare, and so on. These various issues reflect Japan’s unique experience in social change, such as an exceptionally high level of aging and fertility decline.

As a young association, the JWSA is still developing and changing. One of the important tasks for the JWSA is boosting international research collaboration and academic exchange. Our foremost task should be to render our journal and annual meeting more accessible to foreign scholars, thereby sharing Japan’s experience in welfare and social policies with sociologists worldwide. Besides this, comparative research projects on various institutions and practices concerning welfare issues

in different countries would be most fruitful. Referring to the categories of Research Committees (RCs) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the research interests of JWSA members overlap with RC11 (Sociology of Aging), RC15 (Sociology of Health), RC19 (Poverty, Social Welfare, and Social Policy), RC41 (Sociology of Population), RC49 (Mental Health and Illness), and RC55 (Social Indicators). In addition to these RCs, JWSA members actively joined sessions of RC06 (Family Research), RC20 (Comparative Sociology), RC47 (Social Classes and Social Movements), RC53 (Sociology of Childhood), WG03 (Visual Sociology, now RC57), and TG03 (Human Rights and Global Justice) in roles such as RC board member, session organizer, chair, and presenter at the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology (Yokohama, 2014) and the Third ISA Forum of Sociology (Vienna, 2016).

(7) The Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology

1. What is JAES?

The Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology (JAES) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to advancing the development of environmental sociology. JAES was founded in 1992 with 53 researchers taking part in its foundation. Now with 571 members (as of April 1, 2016), JAES has become the largest environmental sociology association around the Globe. JAES members come from a wide range of backgrounds: researchers, teachers, students and practitioners in many fields. The Association holds semiannual seminars each spring and autumn and

publishes the Journal of Environmental Sociology, the world's first journal devoted especially to environmental sociology.

2. Brief History

Japanese environmental sociology has roots that go back to the early 1960s, when it mainly focused its attention on the analysis of social mechanisms that produced pollution victims. This can be attributed mainly to the fact that Japan suffered from severe environmental disruptions (kogai) in the 1960s and 1970s. A few examples of the disruptions are Minamata and Itai-Itai diseases, but the list continues endlessly. Researchers, therefore, conducted case studies occasionally accompanied by in-depth interviews, intending to understand subjective reactions of victims as well as their protest activities and to uncover the mechanisms of societal and environmental disruption in local communities. Sociologists of the time considered analyzing the structure of victimization as more urgent than the HEP-NEP paradigm change controversy. In the late 1980s, Japanese sociologists whose interests focused on environmental problems gathered at a symposium. They founded a small informal association in 1990, the predecessor of The Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology. The late Prof. IJIMA Nobuko (1938-2001), a pioneer in Japanese environmental sociology, became the first president.

3. Semiannual seminars and other activities

Reflecting the diversity of our members, the themes of recent seminars include: eco-tourism and regeneration of community, new wave of environmental movements, "commons" and the environment, citizen-participation in the environmental policy-making process, renewable energy, organic

farming, Minamata disease, and forest conservation. The seminars held each spring are well-known for their excursion programs: each provides its members the opportunity to discuss on site, namely, at the actual place of environmental disruption. The seminars have been held in places such as Ashio copper mine, Lake Biwa, the World Heritage Shirakami Mountains, Minamata, Niigata, a waste disposal site in Nagano, Toyooka, Kuzumaki, Ogata, Fukushima, Yanagawa.

JAES places emphasis on communicating with foreign researchers and associations abroad. JAES held the "International Symposium on Environmental Problems in Asian Societies" in 1993, and the Association supported "Kyoto Environmental Sociology Conference 2001" organized by Research Committee 24 of the International Sociological Association. The International Relations Committee was founded in 2002 to promote networking especially among Asian societies. To date, JAES hosted two international conferences (in Tokyo [2008] and Sendai [2015], both in Japan) and collaborated five (Beijing in 2007; Hsinchu, Taiwan in 2009; Bucheon, Korea in 2011; Nanjing, China in 2013, Taipei in 2017). Still another conference is scheduled in Korea in 2019.

JAES is also active in increasing interchanges with other fields of social sciences. Since 2000, JAES has co-hosted interdisciplinary symposium with two academic associations, the Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies and the Japan Association for Environmental Law and Policy.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the JAES set up the ad hoc committee on the Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster to facilitate understanding the changing situations of impacted areas and people through

academic works. Our important missions among them are collecting and reporting what are happening due to this historical disaster.

4. The Journal of Environmental Sociology

The annual academic journal of JAES, the Journal of Environmental Sociology, was first published in 1995. The Journal covers a wide range of topics, just like the semiannual seminars, and each issue contains special feature articles (most of which are written in Japanese with English abstracts), as shown below:

- No. 1 (1995) Perspectives of Environmental Sociology
- No. 2 (1996) Fieldwork and Environmental Sociology
- No. 3 (1997) Forests, River and Sea as Commons
- No. 4 (1998) Environmental Movements and NPOs
- No. 5 (1999) Sociological Study on Environmental Regeneration
- No. 6 (2000) (1) Viewpoints on the Environmental Destruction
(2) The Significance of Waste Management Legislation and its Social Impacts
- No. 7 (2001) Environmental Policy and Environmental Sociology
- No. 8 (2002) Toward a Sociology of Renewable Energy
- No. 9 (2003) Discourse toward Organic Farming and Vernacular Life Style
- No. 10 (2004) New Developments in Environmental Sociology
- No. 11 (2005) A Logic of Justice and Legitimacy about Environment
- No. 12 (2006) World Heritage and Environmental Sociology
- No. 13 (2007) "Civic Research": Its Possibilities

and Problems

- No. 14 (2008) Rethinking the Coexistence with "Wildlife"
- No. 15 (2009) (1) Environmental Sociology in the Age of Environmental Governance
(2) The Formation of Environmental Sociology in the East Asia
- No. 16 (2010) Disasters Studies : New Perspectives in Environmental Sociology
- No. 17 (2011) The Establishment of a Sound Material-Cycle Society and Environmental Sociology
- No. 18 (2012) Environmental Sociology and the Concept of "Damage"
- No. 19(2013) Responding to a Severe Compound Disaster: Focusing on Suffering and Harm
- No. 20(2014) Breakthroughs in Environmental Sociology
- No. 21(2015) The Scope of Environmental Sociology: Time in Environment and Time in Society
- No. 22(2017) Sustainability of Agriculture and Environment
- No. 23(2017) The Interaction Between Humans and Nature: An Investigations into Coexistence

(8) Japanese Association for Rural Studies

1. Association:

The Japanese Association for Rural Studies (commonly known as "Sonken") is an association composed of researchers who perform analyses targeting "rural areas" from multifaceted viewpoints that include sociology, agricultural economics, economic history. The Society for Rural Studies, which was the association's predecessor, was launched at the end of 1952 and its first official research meeting was held in October 1953 at Tohoku University. Therefore, the year 2012

marked the 60-year anniversary since the establishment of Sonken. ARUGA Kizaemon and FUKUTAKE Tadashi, who had been major researchers from back in those days, played leading roles in the establishment of the Society for Rural Studies. In 1993, exactly 40 years after the launch of Sonken, the Society for Rural Studies got a fresh start as the Japanese Association for Rural Studies.

2. Recent Issues of the Annual Bulletin of Rural Studies

In order to show a rough picture of association's latest activities, I would like to show the titles and excerpts of annual bulletin of the society. The following Table updated the contents of this association shown at the "Message to the World" edited for ISA Yokohama Congress. As you can find, the society is trying to elucidate rural aspects of contemporary issues from various academic fields.

No. 51 (2015): Coping with Disasters: Communities and Families

[Contributors] UEDA, Kyoko; MATSUI, Kazuhiro; TOKUNO, Sadao; KAWASHIMA, Shuichi; YAMA, Yoshiyuki; KANEKO, Hiroyuki; IWAMOTO, Yoshiteru

[Excerpt from Introductory Chapter by UEDA, Kyoko]

While questioning if communities and, as its constituents, families have any room to reduce or to amplify the disaster risks, this issue (Annual Bulletin) attempted to discuss how did each community, in the long run, coped with various disaster risks: the earthquake and the heavy rain/snow in the mountainous area of Niigata and Tokushima, the Tsunami in Sanriku district, the flood in the sandbank placed midst of Tone River, and the nuclear

power plant accident in Fukushima.

In dealing with enormous difficulties brought about by the calamities, each chapter addresses the ways in which the human behaviors influence the actual experiences of catastrophes. Seen from the community-scale perspective, even a tremendously large-scale disaster may reveal clues to mitigation or to the crucial moment of inviting further disasters happening within the communities. In this issue, what the disaster risk management means varies, for example: reshaping the communities themselves, exchanging the unfavorable conditions among flood-prone communities or utilizing the inter-communities' relationships stretched outside of the local land etc. (p.365)

No. 52 (2016): The Ways to Strengthen Human-Mountain Relations in Modern Japanese Society

[Contributors] FUJIMURA, Miho; SATO, Noriko; YAMAMOTO, Miho; FUKUDA, Satoshi; AIKAWA, Yoichi; MATSUMURA, Kazunori

[Excerpt from Introductory Chapter by FUJIMURA, Miho]

"Mountain" taken up in this edition (Annual Bulletin) refers to the space which people have utilized in various ways in their lives or subsistence activities. It exists as part of people's livelihood space which include forests, grasslands, and sometimes waste lands or rivers.

In recent years, the society is increasing expectations toward "mountains" and deepening understanding on the challenges they face. The objective of this edition is to study through researches on rural communities, what perspectives we can gain in addressing these issues.

One of the main characteristics of this edition in this perspective is that it does not focus on mountain villages themselves but on mountain villages

seen from the places (resources) called the mountain. And it also focuses on the mountain villages which exist in relation to mountains and the social relations surrounding them. (p.305)

No. 53 (2017): Current State and Prospects of Collaborative Activities in Villages

[Contributors] ONAI, Junko; YANAGIMURA, Shunsuke; IMAI, Yusaku; SHIBUYA, Miki; MATSUMITA, Ashita; ICHIDA, Tomoko

[Excerpt from Introductory Chapter by ONAI, Junko]

In rural communities, especially in hilly and mountainous areas, aging and depopulation is proceeding at a much faster rate than at the national level. The people living in those areas are increasingly uneasy about their future. This book approaches this subject from the viewpoint of the collaborative activities in villages.

While the crisis of the communities is recognized, people who live in rural communities make efforts to maintain their current life style and continue living there according to their own "logic of life". We can examine non-conventional group activities in various organizations. For example, the organizations are setting up corporations, or a specified nonprofit corporation, by themselves, collaborating with other village-based farming organizations and accepting qualified people from outside the village. In this book, we define this type of movement as the collaborative activities in villages and examine their possibility of success. (p.301)

[Basic data of the association]

Year established: (Society for Rural Studies) 1952, (Japanese Association for Rural Studies) 1993

Number of members: 437 (as of January 2018)

Publications:

Annual Bulletin of Rural Societies (published by the Nosan Gyoson Bunka Kyokai)

Journal of Studies on Rural Societies (published by the Nosan Gyoson Bunka Kyokai twice a year)

Sonken Newsletter (printed by the association's secretary published three times a year)

Annual Conference: Held once a year (in addition, regional research meetings are held as needed)

Website: <http://rural-studies.jp/English/index.html>

(JARS, Committee of International Affairs)

(9) The Japanese Association of Labor Sociology

JALS Has Been Active! : Main Activities and Research Achievements since the 2014 ISA Meetings in Yokohama, Japan

Between the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2018, the Japanese Association of Labor Sociology (JALS) has continued to engage in a range of activities to promote academic understanding of current labor issues in Japan. This report introduces some of its major activities and works that won a JALS prize for their excellent research in the said period. Further, it refers to a symposium planned for the next annual convention that marks the 30th anniversary of the association.

As its main event, JALS has held an annual convention every fall, and has organized corresponding symposiums with the following titles:

2014 Youth Labor Problems in the Japanese Modern Society

2015 The Promotion of Women's Active Participation and Labor Society

2016 Labor Problems under Population Decline

2017 Questioning "Autonomous" Labor: Current Labor Control and Issues of the Government's "Work Style Reforms"

The 2014 symposium, held at Komazawa University in Tokyo, focused on young workers. In addition to increased underemployment, young workers have faced deteriorating working conditions when employed full-time, as evidenced by the emergence of so-called "black companies," or companies that maltreat young regular workers. With the recognition that youth labor today demands a more comprehensive approach for its betterment, the symposium discussed characteristics of both regular and casual employment among young workers, reported on new labor organization in the US, and critically examined Japanese government policies for these workers.

The 2015 symposium, held at Osaka City University, turned to women workers against the backdrop of the Abe administration's policy promoting active labor participation and successful careers among women. While the administration projects a "society where all women shine," contradictory phenomena, such as increased poverty among women, abound. The symposium addressed the gap between policy and reality by looking into the current conditions of working women by type of employment and of working single mothers. In so doing, it also discussed still needed policy for women, especially for the deprived.

In 2015, the national census found that Japan's population had shrunk for the first time since the first census year of 1920. Low birth rates and aging of the population have been an issue for

some time, and the conventional male work ways, which bear some responsibility for the population changes, have been called into question. Yet, workers' conditions do not seem to have changed substantively. The 2016 symposium, held at the Tama Campus of Hosei University, thus examined why the corporate society has failed to cope with the problems stemming from the low birth rate and aging population as well as what obstacles must be cleared in order for women, the elderly, and foreign workers, respectively, to join the workforce.

The 2017 symposium, held at Toyama University in Toyama Prefecture, delved into the controversial concept of "autonomous" labor. By emphasizing workers' autonomy and self-management as well as merit-based pay, the current "Work Style Reforms," pushed by the Abe administration, attempt to transform what we know as modern labor and laborers into something unprecedented. By undermining modern industrial relations, they have opened the way to new forms of labor control. In the symposium, components of the reforms were critically assessed, and the cases of workers in a sharing economy, temporary workers, and factory workers were introduced to exemplify how "autonomy" manifests at various work sites.

JALS's activities have also included factory tours. These tours are geographically arranged around the sites of the annual conventions and conducted prior to the meetings. Before the above conventions started, we visited the following sites for observation and to conduct informal interviews: Nissan's Yokohama Factory (in 2014), Daikin Sunrise Settsu (in 2015), Tokyo Factory & Logistics (in 2016), and Sankyo Corporation's aluminum factory (in 2017).

Further, JALS publishes two journals on an annual basis: the Annual Review of Labor Sociology

and the Journal of Labor Sociology. Each issue of the former offers a refined version of the contents of the preceding annual convention, and the latter, creative, peer-reviewed articles. Between 2014 and 2017, the association edited and published a total of eight issues of these journals.

Another noteworthy activity during the period was the offering of a special workshop by JALS's Kansai Chapter in November, 2017. Entitled "Learning from Practices of the US Labor Movement," the workshop invited Jane Slaughter and Leah Fried of Labor Notes, who duplicated their two-day training session on union organization and activism at Osaka University of Economics, where Kansai Chapter's representative teaches.

Every year, JALS's members engage themselves in unique or novel research projects. Below, we introduce some of the publications that were the products of these research projects. As a way to promote excellent research and subsequent publication, once a year JALS carefully reviews the works of its members published in the recent past and offers prizes to select researchers who wrote an outstanding book or article. The books and article introduced here are the publications that were selected for the prize in 2014 and 2016. (No winner were awarded in 2015 and 2017.)

Haruki KONNO. 2013. *Black Company Business*. Asahi Shinbun-sha.

Haruki KONNO. 2013. *Livelihood Protection: Its Unknown, Fearful Reality*. Chikuma Shobo.

Sachiko HAYAKAWA. 2015. *Nurses and Temporary Work in the United States: Their History and Peculiarities*. Keisui-sha.

Teppei SHIBATA. 2016. Factor Analysis of the Long Working Hours of Dependent Contractors

in the Construction Industry. *Journal of Labor Sociology* 17: 26-46.

A short note regarding the next annual convention, scheduled for October 2018, is in order. As of March 2018, JALS is preparing the symposium to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its founding. A candidate theme is "workers and life"—a theme that has long been a concern among students of labor sociology in Japan. Whatever the final theme may be, we will warmly invite as speakers long-term and newer members of the association to explore it in its historical depth and sociological breadth.

(10) The Japanese Society of Health & Medical Sociology

1. Introduction to the Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology

The Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology (JSHMS) was founded in 1989 as an academically accredited society based on the Society for Study of Health & Medical Sociology, launched in 1974. Our primary mission was to promote sociological studies of "health" and "medicine".

"Health" and "medicine" are not merely biological and medical phenomena but also important sociological phenomena that are promoted and controlled by society. Ethical and social problems exist with regard to advanced medical technology, various social phenomena that cause health damage, the financial benefits brought by the health boom

and prosperity of the health industry, health inequalities, and problems of living with chronic illness. Health and medical sociology addresses such problems.

Communication and collaboration between sociologists interested in health and medicine and medical researchers and clinicians who have a proper understanding of sociological viewpoints are indispensable to move such research forward. Our society has developed as an important space for mutual interchange between these researchers and clinicians. We have approximately 700 members. Sociology, nursing science, and health /medical science/other studies each represent one-third of our members' specialty domains. Sociological analyses are needed to address many problems related to "health" and "medicine". We welcome the active participation in our society of people interested in health and medical problems.

2. Annual meetings, 2012–2017

The annual meeting is usually held in May, which provides a great opportunity to make presentations on research and practice and to participate in academic exchange.

The following table shows the main themes and titles of educational/special lectures at past annual meetings (2012–2017). The main themes through 2011 have been listed in “The Great Expansion of Health & Medical Sociology in Japan: Past, Present, and Future” in Message to the World (<http://www.socconso.com/message/message-world>).

Year	Main theme	Educational/special lectures
2012	Inquiry into the Education of Practitioners in the Era of the Team Approach to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team Medical Care Revisited: Future Medical Care Designed through the Team Approach
2013	Discussion of “Disability” and “Support”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussing the Legislative Definition of Disability and Disability Policy
2014	Human Resources in Health and Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Autonomy of Healthcare Personnel and Related Laws ● Severe Shortage of Health Care Professionals after the Great East Japan Earthquake
2015	Shift Toward the Life Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Issue of Home Mechanical Ventilation
2016	Listen to the Narratives of Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HIV and Blood Products: Pharmaceutical Administration in Japan

2017	Contestation on Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mikhail Bakhtin's Concept of Polyphony and Studies of Illness Narrative: An Anthropologist's Notes ● The Medical Profession: Altruistic or a Self-Interested Threat to the Public?
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2014	Trends in and Perspectives on Health and Medical Sociology
2015	Perspectives on Health Care in Health and Medical Sociology
2016	Current Research on Communication in Healthcare: Studies of Patient-Physician Relationships and Beyond
2017	Experience of Reproduction: Health Care and Medical Care/Treatment

3. The official journal

Three times a year, the JSHMS publishes a peer-reviewed journal entitled Japanese Journal of Health and Medical Sociology. Two regular issues and one supplemental issue containing abstracts from the annual meeting are published. Articles in regular issues include original research reports, general overviews, research notes, and articles on other topics.

Since 2010, the journal has frequently featured articles on specific themes that should be important and meaningful for JSHMS members. The following are the themes of the special issues published from 2010 to 2017.

Year	Special issue theme
2010	Academic Society and Future Research Trends
2011	Medicine, Economy, and Society
2012	Research Works, Writing of Research Papers, Research Project Funding

4. International academic exchange

The JSHMS is eager to communicate with foreign researchers. Members of the JSHMS have actively joined the congresses of various international academic associations, such as the International Sociological Association (ISA) and the Association for Medical Education in Europe. Foreign researchers who are board members of RC15 (Sociology of Health) at the ISA were invited to give special lectures at the JSHMS annual meetings in 2016 and 2017.

5. Contact Information

The Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology

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(11) Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology

Activities of the Japanese Society for Mathematical Sociology since 2014

The Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology (henceforth, the "Association") was established in March 1986, and it celebrated its 30th anniversary in March 2016. In the conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Association's founding (the 61st conference) held at Sophia University, Tokyo, 143 people participated and a special symposium titled "The Past and Future of Mathematical and Quantitative Sociology in Japan" was held. As the format for the discussion, young members of the Association took to the podium to raise questions, which were answered by veteran founding members and mid-level members. This was an opportunity to promote the significance of mathematical sociology as an academic discipline among the younger generation. Currently, the Association has more than 320 members and has now entered its next stage. The main activities of the Association following the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, which was held in July 2014, are presented here.

The Association holds conferences twice a year, in the spring and summer. Between August 2014 and March 2018, eight conferences were held at the Japanese universities to which our members belong. Usually, there are approximately 100 participants for these conferences, and 40 to 60 reports are presented. In many cases, symposia are held, as well. The themes of the symposia held during this period are as follows: Frontier of Happiness Studies (58th conference), Sociological Approach to Xenophobia (59th conference), Social Stratification and Family (60th conference), Sociological Problems to Be Solved in the 21st Century

(63rd conference), The Challenge of Analytical Sociology (65th conference), Quantitative Analysis in Historical Sociology (65th conference).

In addition, during this period, two presidential addresses were made at the conferences. These addresses were "Exploring Complex Social Mechanisms" (at the 60th conference in August 2015) delivered by Naoki Sudo, who was the president of the Association at the time, and "The Influence of Political Attitudes on Trust in Sciences and Humanities" (at the 64th conference in September 2017) delivered by Hiroshi Tarohmaru, who is the current president.

Once every two years, the Association selects and confers an award on a paper presented by a member. Further, the recipient of the award delivers a conference lecture. The names of the two award recipients during the period from August 2014 to March 2018 and the titles of their award lectures are as follows:

Shinya Ohbayashi, "Explanation of Social Phenomena by Mathematical Models" (the 10th Best Paper Award, 2016)

Kazuhiro Kezuka, "Collaboration between Mathematical Model and Empirical Analysis" (the 11th Best Paper Award, 2016)

The Association's journal, *Riron to Houhou* (Sociological Theory and Methods), is published twice a year. The featured themes during the period are as follows:

Modern Development in the Commons Problem (Vol.29, No.2, 2014)

Dynamics of Social Institutions (Vol.30, No.1, 2015)

The Prospects of the Computer-Assisted Survey

(Vol.30, No.2, 2015)

Social Stratification and Family (Vol.31, No.1, 2016)

Mathematical Approaches to Social Inequality (Vol.31, No.2, 2016)

Sociological Approaches to Subjective Well-being (Vol.32, No.1, 2017)

Toward the Developments of Studies on Social Norms (Vol.32, No.2, 2017)

The Association values international research exchanges and, in August 2016, held the Sixth Joint Japan-US Conference on Mathematical Sociology and Rational Choice in Seattle. In this conference, 18 members of the Association participated, presenting 12 reports, and lively discussions were held. The Association has already published the following three volumes as part of its 30th anniversary project.

Introduction to Sociology: Understanding the Society from Mathematics Models

Editors: Jun Kobayashi, Masayuki Kanai, Yoshimichi Sato, Jun Naito, Hiroshi Hamada and Masayoshi Muto.

2014

Asakura Shoten: Tokyo

Language: Japanese

Introduction to Quantitative Sociology: Understanding the Society from Survey Data Analysis

Editors: Junya Tsutsui, Hiroshi Kanbayashi, Namie Nagamatsu, Daisuke Watanabe and Sho Fujihara

2015
Sekaishishosha : Kyoto

Language: Japanese

Contemporary Japanese Sociology, Three Volume

Set

Editors: Jun Kobayashi, Junya Tsutsui, and Masayuki Kanai

Preface: Naoki Sudo

2018

Sage Publications

Language: English

Many other sociology-related academic societies in Japan are facing problems with respect to a decline in the number of members. However, the Association has recently seen a slight increase in the number of members. Usually, there are approximately 40 student members, and our young members are able to obtain academic positions to some extent. It is considered that this results from the dynamism and advanced expertise of the research performed by Association members and research networks formed throughout the academic organization. As an academic society, we hope to continue supporting young researchers in the future, as well. As the central pillars of this support, the Association focuses on holding seminars to facilitate new studies and the improvement of mathematical models and statistical analysis methodologies, the sharing of experiences between members to encourage the submission of academic society reports and papers in English, and the creation of opportunities for international research exchanges as an academic organization.

Contact Information

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(12) Japanese Association of Social Problems

Organizing of Joint Conference of Five Associations on Criminology

Minoru Yokoyama,
Former President of
Japanese Association of Social Problems

In August in 2011 our Japanese Association of Social Problems participated in 17th World Congress of Criminology held in Kobe, for which I worked as a vice chair of the executive committee. After the conference the Japan Network of Criminological Associations (JNCA) was established, which our association joined. In March in 2015 JNCA held a representatives meeting of six associations, at which we discussed the possibility of holding a joint conference on criminology, which was not held since 1994. Our association was responsible for operating JNCA in the fiscal 2015. Then, I began to work as a chair of the temporary preparation committee for the second joint conference on criminology.

As I succeeded in booking facilities of Kokugakuin University, the formal preparation committee started in March in 2016 by the decision at a representatives meeting of JNCA. In addition to our Japanese Association of Social Problems, Japanese Association of Criminology, Japanese Association of Sociological Criminology, Japanese Association of Criminal Psychology and Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Services participated in the joint conference. Japanese Association of Offenders Rehabilitation joined as an observer. In the preparation committee three vice chairs were responsible for three jobs: Hideo Okamoto for publishing a joint program, Shin-ichi Ishizuka for holding a joint symposium and Tetsuo

Seki for arranging facilities at Kokugakuin University.

In the afternoon a joint symposium entitled “Possibility of Support Network for Recovering from Addiction—Can Justice and Welfare Understand Each Other in Theory and Practice?”—was held, in which about 400 audiences attended. Shin-ichi Ishizuka and Satoshi Tomiyama gave a speech. Then, David B. Wexler delivered a lecture on Suggestion to Japan from Therapeutic Jurisprudence. Tadashi Nakamura, Tetsuya Fujimoto, Toshihiko Matsumoto and Masahiko Mizuto presented their paper from the viewpoint of the social problems, the criminal policy, the addiction study and the social work respectively.

On September 2-3 five associations held their own annual meeting at a campus of Kokugakuin University, at which such events as a symposium, a round table and a session for presentation were held. In addition to members of five associations about 150 persons attended the joint conference. All participants were free to enter a room to listen to the presentation and to participate in discussion.

On September 2 our Japanese Association of Social Problems had the opening ceremony at 13:00 p.m. at which Shinji Shimizu, a president of our association, gave a speech. Then, under being presided by Tadashi Nakamura a symposium on “Opening Me—Study on Social Problems for Cooperation to Knit Knowledge about How to Live” was held. Four scholars presented their paper: Satoko Okawa on “Teen Aged Mother from Viewpoint of Life Cycle”, Toshiya Ozaki on “Approaching Violent Offenders”, Shoko Tokunaga on “Place for Children to Grow”, and Kohei Kawabata on “Social Problems by Thinking from Field Work in Familiar World”.

At 18:00 p.m. a joint party was held, which about

250 participants attended. Some had a talk with David B. Wexler. Many members of our association enjoyed conversation while drinking and eating. It was a good occasion for them to have a conversation with participants affiliated with other associations.

On September 3 we had two sessions at 10:00 a.m. At the Session I Kiyoshi Fukushige, Yuka Kanazawa, Tetsu Mugikura and Kento Maejima presented their paper under being presided by Masahiko Kaneko. At the Session II Mariko Inoue worked as a chair, at which Yosuke Mishiro, Yasushi Takahashi, Kaoru Takanashi and Yuzo Shindo presented their paper.

In the afternoon a round table on Possibility of Study about Social Pathology and about Social Problems was held, at which Yoshitaka Asada worked as a facilitator. Shinji Shimizu, Naoyuki Nishimura, Nobuyuki Fujiwara and Masato Fukuwaka gave suggestions on the topic, after which participants enjoyed discussion.

During two days members affiliated with other associations joined programs offered by our association. Therefore, we could enjoy exchanges stimulating perspectives and knowledge with them. At the conference nine book publishers held the exhibition for selling books. It was good opportunity for members of our association to know books in various fields on criminology.

On September 4 three tours were organized as an after program of the joint conference. Takeshi Honjyo guided for the Course A to visit Fuchu Prison and National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry. Under guide of Yumiko Yahagi on the Course B thirty persons visited Metropolitan Police Academy and Kanto Medical Juvenile Training School. On the Course C Yuki Takahashi guided participants to Hachioji Medical Prison, Hachioji

Juvenile Classification and Detention Center, and Tokyo Women's Guidance Home. Several members of our association also joined. I witnessed that the question and answer was carried out enthusiastically at a meeting room at Metropolitan Police Academy, Fuchu Prison and National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry. Participants in these three courses seemed to have good experiences.

With advancement of specialization and sophistication scholars and practitioners tend to have narrower knowledge and perspectives. To improve this situation, at the joint conference they were offered rich knowledge and wide perspective on criminology.

(13) Kansai Sociological Association

Sociology from 1.17 to 3.11 and Beyond: Tension between Theory and Reality

The Kansai Sociological Association, founded in 1950, has around 900 members and is one of the leading sociological associations in Japan. The size of the association is suitable for researchers in various subjects, from young to elderly, to form a network that promotes communication and collaborative works, which is the merit of a regional academic society compared to a general association such as the Japan Sociological Society or associations based on each sociological discipline. As a regional academic society based on the Kansai area, it covers a wide range of topics and approaches, ranging from theoretical debates to empirical researches. The association has been traditionally strong in the areas of theoretical sociology,

doctrinal history of sociology (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, and the Chicago School in particular), quantitative sociology, cultural sociology, historical sociology, sociology of the family, sociology of education, sociology of religion, mathematical sociology, urban sociology, sociology of the local community, as well as topics such as communities, environment, ethnicity, discrimination, and gender/sexuality. Memory, narrative, ethnomethodology, and oral history are among the topics and approaches that have recently been focused on.

It is notable that the two great earthquakes (the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 17, 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011) caused a tremendous challenge to recent sociological thought and practices in Japan, and the Kansai Sociological Association took a leading part in rethinking and reforming the theoretical frameworks and approaches, as well as conducting manifold empirical researches, in order to understand the current situation both on the macro and micro levels and to conceive and design a possible future of society after the great disaster.

Current concerns of the association can be seen in the themes of symposia held at recent yearly annual conferences. "Nationalism and Hate/Phobia in Contemporary Japan" (2014) dealt with the recent surge of extreme racism and antiforeignism against Koreans in Japan. The background process and conditions that gave rise to such a phenomenon were explored through a journalistic approach, qualitative research and a historical investigation. "The Cracks and Structural Violence Revealed in Regional Areas" (2015) discussed the structural problems of current Japanese society that are to be approached from the perspective of regional areas. Special attention was given to Okinawa and Fukushima where those structural problems appear in a condensed way as both areas are suffering, respectively, from the problems of US military bases and the recovery process from the nuclear disaster in 2011. "Sociology of War and Military Culture" (2016) examined the position of war and military culture in contemporary Japanese society, focusing on the representation of war and military organization in popular culture on the one hand, and the culture formed around the real military organization of the Self Defence Force on the other hand. "How are Historical Experiences Narrated and Remembered?" (2017) discussed the new possibilities of the debate on the "politics of memory". With reference to the recent trend of sociology of memories and life history approach, it explored how significant historical experiences are narrated and remembered, taking up such empirical cases as the Jeju 4.3 Massacre, the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Miike coal mine. "A Dialogue between Sociology and Disability Studies" (2017) set up a discussion between the two disciplines in the areas of medicine, family, and education. It was intended to come up with heuristic findings that would contribute to both disciplines, focusing on the concepts of "impairment" and "disability".

Alongside symposia, the sessions proposed by younger members of the association in annual conferences would show the current areas of interest of the association. "Cultural Labor and the Culture of Labor: Questioning the Tension Inbetween" (2014) dealt with the relationship between labor and culture with respect to the examples of animation making, art creation and heritagization of the ex-coal mine. "Towards a Sociology that Designs Regional Communities: In Terms of the Multicultural Condition in Kyoto" (2015) discussed how

we could form an inclusive society using local resources in the multicultural social context in Kyoto. "Who Conducts Research, and for What?" (2016) examined how a social movement can incorporate social researches as their method of organization of the movement, considering topics such as the modernization of Okinawa, the "research on laborers" in Sanya and Kamagasaki, and visual recording practices at night. "Situations and Problems of Quantitative Sociology" (2017) gave an overview of present conditions and problems of quantitative sociology in Japan by way of a time-series comparison, an international comparison, and an interdisciplinary comparison. There was also a special session titled "Contact Points between Sociology and Queer Studies: Considered through AIDS Activism" (2016). Planned by a research group that had been working together for three years in the interdisciplinary areas of sexuality, queer, gender, body, and identity, the session explored how sociology and queer studies could connect to each other through the discussion on AIDS activism.

It should be obvious from the above mentioned themes and topics that the Kansai Sociological Association holds a wide range of research interests with regard to various theoretical and empirical fields. Based on its long tradition, the association is now trying to tackle challenging theoretical and practical problems that are arising under contemporary social conditions such as globalization and neoliberalism. The association is willing to communicate and make a collaborative project with other groups and associations of sociology all over the world, as long as they share the same kind of concerns regarding the theoretical and practical sociological problems of the contemporary world.

Committee on Messages

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(14) Kanto Sociological Society

Activity of the Kanto Sociological Society

Since 2014, the Kanto Sociological Society (KSS) has organized two international exchange projects. In the first project, KSS signed a mutual contract with the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia that allowed members of KSS to be seconded to the institute to undertake short-term fellow- or professorships. In the second project, KSS invited two overseas researchers to present at symposiums held at the society's annual convention in 2015.

KSS is a sociological society for the Kanto region of Japan, which includes the Greater Tokyo Area and seven prefectures, and therefore its membership comes from a variety of different branches of sociology and individual members often belong to several other sociological societies. To emphasize the unique characteristics of KSS, the society began to develop an international exchange project in connection with the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia. In 2014, KSS signed a mutual contract with Hawke Research In-

stitute that allowed KSS to send early career researchers and younger KSS members to undertake fellowships, and senior members to undertake professorships, at the institute. From 2014 to 2017, four members of the society were sent and they completed projects on themes related to sociology of residence, problems surrounding immigration, life-history study and elderly care, and Bourdieu's sociological theory.

Through contact with the staffs at the university, and the many researchers from countries all over the world who travelled to the university to give lectures and attend seminars, our members were able to expand their understanding of the sociology research being conducted outside of Japan. It is unusual for a sociological society to dispatch members using its own funds to an overseas university, and so this was a very important and successful project for the society.

In 2015, KSS invited Professor Andrew Markus of Monash University in Australia and Professor Daniel Bertaux of Strasburg University in France to speak at the society's annual convention. Professor Markus presented on the theme of "Inclusion and Exclusion" and Professor Bertaux presented on the theme of "Reconsideration of the Sociology of Self, Narration and Narrative."

Professor Markus addressed the problems of inclusion and exclusion in the terms of the problems of Australian attitudes towards immigration and multiculturalism. In Australia, there is a high level of support for the country's immigration programs and agreement that a diverse immigration policy benefits the country. There is also strong support for multiculturalism. The strongest positive association of multiculturalism is with its perceived contribution to Australia's economic development and its encouragement of immigrants to become part of

Australian society. However, majority support for the multiculturalism does not extend to cultural pluralism. Rather, there is the expectation that immigrants will adopt Australian customs and integrate into Australian society. Immigrant programs always pose challenges for the receiving society. In Australia, a small minority is opposed to immigrants and cultural diversity and there is majority opposition to the settlement of asylum seekers arriving by boat. Professor Markus discussed the problems of multiculturalism and immigration in Australian society by exploring the evidence provided by more than 20,000 respondents to a survey conducted to provide an in-depth understanding of Australian public opinion.

Professor Bertaux addressed the empirical problems associated with the study of narrative and life history. People try to make their life better and this universal tropism orients most of an individual's courses of action: the succession of steps an individual takes to try and reach significant goals. All courses of action aim ultimately at changing one's social status. From a constructivist's view, millions of courses of action powerfully blend together to shape society and its history. However, there is currently no standard empirical method that allows the observation of a single course of action. One way of addressing this issue is to use narrative interviewing with actors to try and reconstruct what individuals did, with whom, in which context, and how they did it. By collecting a series of life stories in the same social world, one can better understand sociologically the inner working of the social world, how life stories are re-produced, and how they change over time. An additional advantage of this approach is that these testimonies can be cross-checked against one another to address various issues of validity.

Despite the success of these two international exchange projects, the society's resources are limited and year-by-year it is becoming difficult to fund future projects. However, we believe in the importance of ensuring our members have opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues from outside of Japan.

(15) The Society of Socio-Informatics

Let us promote the healthy development of our society together!

The Society of Socio-Informatics (SSI) expresses our congratulations on the 19th ISA Annual Conference held in Toronto, Canada, in April 2019. We are a relatively young non-profit academic association established in 2012, through the combination of two Japanese academic associations: The Japan Association for Social Informatics (JASI) and The Japan Society for Socio-Information Studies (JSIS). We consist of not only faculty members, but also academic institutions, enterprises, and governments. We are always open to those who appreciate "Socio-Informatics," a discipline used to understand information processes and structures, the progress of information technology, communication processes, media phenomena, culture and ethics, and their relations with our society through both theoretical and empirical viewpoints.

The SSI holds annual conferences, which include meetings of its eight committees: the General, Research, Journal, Awards, International, External, Future Vision, and Public information and Network Committees. Also occurring at the conferences are academic workshops presented by the

Society's seven branches: Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto, Chubu, Kansai, Chugoku and Shikoku, and Kyushu and Okinawa area branches. We have two journals: Socio-Informatics, published in Japanese three times a year, and the Journal of Socio-Informatics, published in English once a year. Both journals are accessible online through J-Stage service. Find more details at the SSI webpage, <http://www.ssi.or.jp/eng>.

Since its inception, the SSI has enthusiastically pursued its academic activities. In 2017, Prof. Osamu Sudo from the University of Tokyo was elected as its fourth president and engages in frequent activities with SSI board members and trustees. The latest annual conference was held at Komazawa University, Tokyo, in September 2017, with the theme "The Era of Post-Truth and Socio-Informatics." The keynote lecture of the conference was presented by Prof. Toshie Takahashi from Waseda University and titled "Digital Wisdom, Towards the AI Society."

It is without doubt that the primary driver of the daily sweeping changes in our modern lives is information technology, including the Internet. Technology impacts many more aspects of human life, such as social, economic, political, and cultural activities, than did previous communication tools, such as printing or television technology. Those living in the vortex of its diffusion have a duty to objectively analyze the process as well as its light and shadow, and to shed insight on these issues for the healthy development of our society. The SSI tackles this social demand directly.

The SSI shares this mission with your conference, embracing an interdisciplinary approach. Considering the relationship between technology and society requires knowledge and wisdom not only from a technological point of view, but from

many points of view, including law, ethics, social systems, psychology, etc. The SSI itself is interdisciplinary, and our membership is comprised of individuals from many backgrounds, including the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. We continually engage in activities with many disciplines to increase collaborations.

Promoting international activities is also an important theme emphasized by the SSI. Our challenge is not only to focus on the national arena, but also the international arena, and thus we acknowledge the success of your conference. Let us join the challenge together!

(16) Japan Society of Sport Sociology

Asia, the Olympics, and the Japan Society of Sport Sociology

Summary

The Japan Society of Sport Sociology (JSSS), which was established in 1991, held its 27th conference in March 2018. In July 2008, together with the International Sociology of Sport Association, JSSS organized the "ISSA 5th World Congress" at Kyoto University, which was attended by around 280 participants from 32 countries.

Relationship with the International Sociological Association

In 2014, the ISA World Congress of Sociology was held in the city of Yokohama. There were 986 Japanese participants, some of whom were members of the JSSS. As an organization, JSSS took part in the "Messages to the World" project within the Congress, and subsequently announced the "Message to Sociologists Around the World from the Japan Society of Sport Sociology."

Recent Symposium Themes

In JSSS, the research committee decides on common themes to span several years, and a symposium based on those themes is held during the yearly conference in March. From 2013 to 2015, the common themes have been "Sports and Politics," and "Sports and Education." The former was aimed at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games that will be held in 2020, while the latter came about due to the corporal punishment cases in high school sports activities that surfaced at the end of 2012. Based on these common themes, the following symposia were held during JSSS conferences:

Sports and Education

2013: The Possibility for a New Relationship Between Sports and Education: Hospitality based on from purely altruistic donation

2014: The Topology of Corporal Punishment in Sports and Education

2015: The Educating Capability of Sports: How will the regularization of school sports affect education in Japan?

Sports and Politics

2013: Examining the Politics Surrounding the London Olympics

2014: Tohoku in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Invitational Activities

2015: "National Sports Strategy" and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

The common theme from 2016 to 2018 is "Sports and Vision." Under this challenging theme, we began with research methodology that connects "vision" and "sociology," to explore what kind

of sport sociology problems can be drawn out from the perspective of “vision”. These include what “sight” means to sports; the physical sensations of blind athletes; and our relationship with sports technologies like the hawk-eye or devices like the smartphone.

This year, the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics Games were held, and in two years’ time, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place. It has now also been decided that the 2022 Winter Olympic Games will be held in Beijing. In the future, the attention received by East Asia with

regards to major world sporting events is likely to continue to increase. Against this backdrop, JSSS plans to continue deepening its collaboration with various international sports organizations like ISA, the International Sociology of Sport Association, the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, and the European Association for Sociology of Sport, as well as with sports associations in South Korea, China, and all over Asia. In this way we will continue our academic pursuit of various sports phenomena on a global scale.

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