

Research Focus (Program members + Projects 2009) *HS=Human Sciences

1. Language contact and conflict

Mayumi Kudo (Letters•Professor) *Language Conflict and Conflict Management*

Katsumi Shibuya (Letters•Professor)

2. Crossing arts and media

Tsukasa Kodera (Letters•Professor) *Glocal Conflicts in Visual Arts*

Kenji Mitani (Letters•Professor) *Localism and anti-localism in modern art and literature*

Nobuhiro Ito (Letters•Associate Professor) *Conflicts in the production, circulation and consumption of music*

3. Crossing popularculture

Ichiro Tomiyama (Letters•Professor) *Comprehensive research on popular culture and social conflicts*

Satoshi Kinsui (Letters•Professor), Daisuke Tsuji (HS•Associate Professor)

4. Transnationality

Junji Koizumi (HS•Professor, Vice President and Trustee of Osaka University),

Eisei Kurimoto (HS•Professor)

Naoki Kasuga (HS•Professor)

Theoretical and methodological research for understanding "conflict": Anthropological approaches

Satoshi Nakagawa (HS•Professor) *An ethnography of value-based conflicts*

Mitsuho Ikeda (CSCD•Professor) *Community-Based Participant Researches on foreign residents in Japan*

Kokichi Shimizu (HS•Professor) *Educational strategy for 'transient people': From the aspect of cross-cultural conflict*

5. Globalization

Toshio Tomoeda (HS•Professor) • Kazue Muta (HS•Professor) *A study of chauvinistic nationalism and violence from a gender perspective: Working towards conflict prevention, amelioration and resolution*

Wolfgang Schwentker (HS•Professor) *Global conflicts and intellectuals*

Hidefujii Someda (HS•Professor) *Conflicts on 'history': The 'past' and 'present' of the Andes region*

6. Humanism and human rights

Yasuhide Nakamura (HS•Professor)

Strengthening systems to mitigate the conflicts between non-Japanese residents and Japanese

Yasumasa Hirasawa (HS•Professor)

Research on conflicts over global standards of human rights and 'Asian values'

7. Human security

Youichi Mine (HS•Associate Professor),

Tomohide Atsumi (HS•Associate Professor)

8. Conflict and value

Kiyokazu Washida (President of Osaka University), Narifumi Nakaoka (Letters•Professor)

Tadashi Kobayashi (CSCD•Professor) *The Possibilities and limitations of transcultural psychiatry on migration issues: From the perspective of the Humanities*

Specialy appointed staff + Projects 2009

Assistant professor

Mitsuharu Akao *Archaeology of Zionism*

Hiroko Ikegami *Migration of post-1945 Japanese art and cultural conflict*

Tomoko Sakai (Research and Education Support Staff)

Takeshi Furukawa ("Crossing popularculture")

Mio Kubota (Media Labo)

Researcher

Ayako Oku *Europe / Non-Europe—Modern literature in Eastern Europe*

Akihito Kudo *Comparative studies of cities in the age of Empire*

Sachiko Tanuma *Making visual materials for conflict studies, Co-labo 100 for ethnographic writing*

Kuniko Fujiwara *A Study of transnationality in Mediterranean area and beyond*

Yayoi Yoshizawa *Research on the publicness of culture / art and social conflict*

JSPS Research Fellow

Mayu Hayakawa *Anthropological study on exchange of money and commodities under the "Zimbabwe Crisis"*



This research program was started in 2007 at the Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University. It is one of twelve "Global COE (Centers of Excellence) Programs" adopted in Human Sciences area by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, which provides funding support for establishing superlative education and research centers in Japanese Universities. The overall purpose of the "Global COE Program" is to foster competitive young researchers in their respective fields through practical research, and to facilitate research activities and international academic projects at Japanese universities.



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Program Subleader Eisei Kurimoto

Research Base

Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University

Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University

Center for the Study of Communication-Design, Osaka University

Global Collaboration Center, Osaka University

Introduction: Toward Conflict Studies in the Humanities

Junji Koizumi

Program Leader of "A Research Base for Conflict Studies in the Humanities"
Professor of Graduate School of Human Sciences, Vice President and Trustee of Osaka University

Conflict as a Problem

In today's rapidly globalizing world, social and cultural conflicts between different social groups are everywhere. In fact, it can even be said that conflicts are essential constituents of "society," as there is no social group that is completely free from conflicts of some sort. And yet they always present themselves as a real and serious challenge.

Understanding Conflict

Conflicts take various forms and are experienced in various ways. If we try to extract a universal formula from the various varieties of conflicts that exist in the world, we would run the risk of arriving at a reductive understanding of human experiences and thought processes. It cannot be stressed enough that conflicts are always brought about by thoughts, feelings and actions of those who actually experience them. It is for this reason that our Global COE Program names the "humanities" in its title.

Experiential and Realistic Approaches to Conflict

Our Global COE program emphasizes the importance of first attaining a detailed and multi-faceted understanding of cases of conflict based on their individual realities and situations, and then seeking an experiential approach (as opposed to a deductive one) to those cases. In particular, we aim to develop a dynamic comprehension of our transient realities by conducting case studies of individual conflicts and by understanding the "ongoing" reality of the views and practices of those who are involved in them.

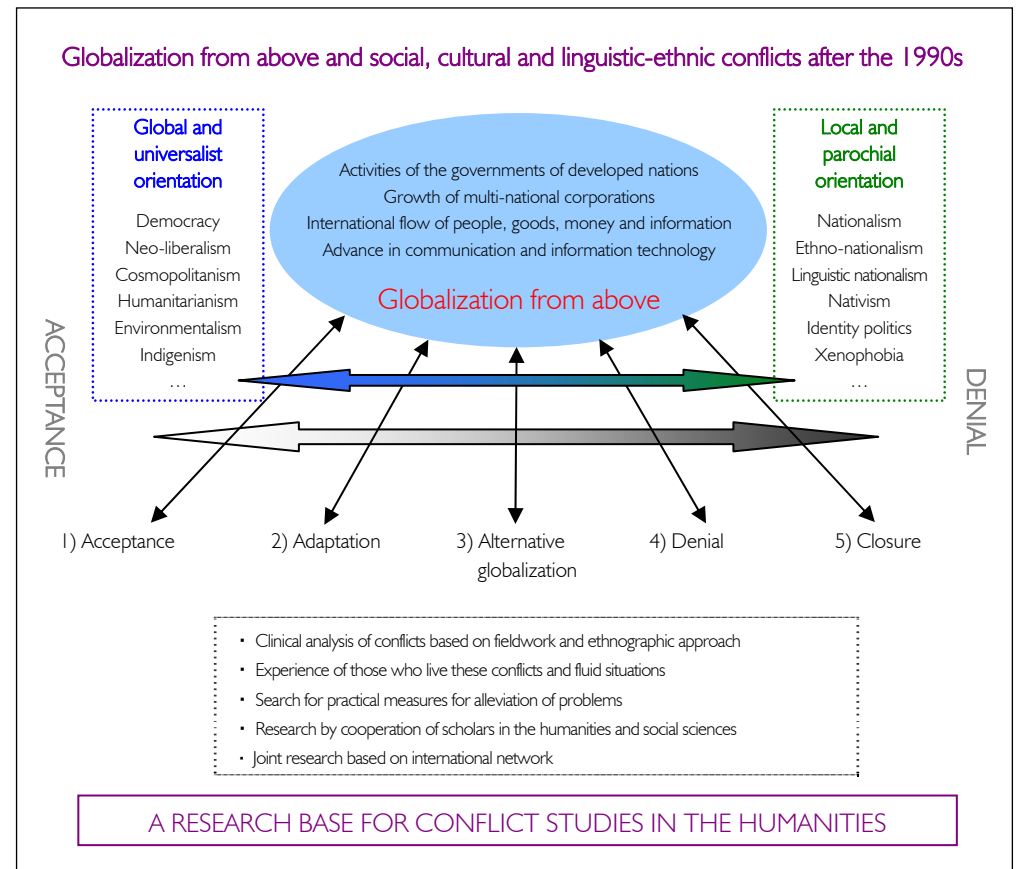
At the same time, it is crucially important for us to devise realistic measures to deal with the problem of conflict. At the base of every human activity—including economic development, political stabilization, cultural creation and technological advancement—there always exists conflict that ultimately derives from differences in "values." There is therefore no perfect way to solve or dissolve the problems. What is possible is the creation of approaches, dialogues, negotiations, and understandings to ease and mitigate the problems by means of practical measures.

In order to foster such understandings, it is necessary not only to refine our analytical tools and factual analysis ("interpretation," that is), but also to create a system for flexible feedback between data and analysis, so that our understanding is not reduced to simple and fixed analytical concepts. As a starting point for this sort of research, a theoretical model is provided as a table on the right.

Structure of This Program

This program is a successor to another COE program, "Interface Humanities" (2002–2007). With a particular focus on "conflicts with a global dimension," this program aims to establish an interdisciplinary research base and train competent young scholars. It is centered on anthropology and other related disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, including linguistics, philosophy, art studies, literature, history, intellectual history, study of modern civilization, sociology, science and technology studies. In addition, practical fields such as studies of international cooperation, multicultural education, clinical pedagogy, human development, local symbiosis, and human security also form an important part of this research base. The COE program is based in the Graduate School of Human Sciences in collaboration with the Graduate School of Letters, the Global Collaboration Center (GLOCOL), and the Center for the Study of Communication-Design (CSCD). With twenty-six professors in total as program members, this program, composed of eight research foci, advances numerous research projects with team research members from both inside and outside Osaka University.

Theoretical Framework



Activities

International conferences

Apr.7-10, 2009: Reframing Development – Post-development, Globalization, and the Human Condition

Aug. 24-26, 2008: Migration and Identities – Conflicts and New Horizons

July 11-13, 2008: WCAA OSAKA 2008 – Conflicts, Cooperation, and Anthropologies' Role in the World etc.

Seminars

Workshops

Postgraduate research subsidies

Postgraduate international conference participation subsidies

Journal Publication: *Conflict Studies in the Humanities*

E-mail Magazine (biweekly)

