



Ochanomizu University Global COE Program
**Science of Human Development for Restructuring the
 "Gap-Widening Society"**

Newsletter No.1



Creative personnel training to lead the world under the study base of the world highest standard

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Greetings from the Leader

I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant for our Global COE Program, Science of Human Development for Restructuring the "Gap-Widening Society", that we, the Human Development and Social Science Division of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Ochanomizu University, applied for. The purpose of the Global COE Program is to selectively support the establishment of education and research centers of international excellence. These centers will train creative researchers, who can lead the world in cutting-edge research environments generated through the enhanced education and research functions of graduate schools, and thus, strengthening the international leadership of Japanese universities. Sixty-three programs out of 281 applications have been selected in fiscal 2007 in the following five categories: Life Science; Chemistry and Materials Science; Information Sciences, Electrical and Electronics Engineering; Humanities, and Interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, new disciplines. Our Program, Science of Human Development for Restructuring the "Gap-Widening Society", was selected under the Humanities category.

Following our 21st Century COE Program, the

Human Development and Social Science Division will be offering a variety of educational programs and research projects to train female researchers who are "sensitive to social injustice", and to establish an education and research center of international caliber. The Global COE Program aims to establish a center capable of attracting excellent researchers from around the globe. Therefore, our center will carry out advanced research projects. However, first and foremost, the emphasis of the Program will be to train young researchers. Hence, our educational programs will employ research assistants, publicly solicit research projects for graduate students and young researchers, dispatch researchers to academic conferences and research projects abroad, assist researchers in writing papers and presenting in English, hold variety of seminars and symposiums, and collaborate with field research projects. I am confident that some of our programs will amaze young graduate students and researchers. Moreover, we are in the process of gradually improving the website because it is a vital link with the public. So please visit it often to watch our latest developments.



Professor MIMIZUKA Hiroaki
 Leader, G-COE Program

MIMIZUKA Hiroaki

Outline of the plan for establishing the G-COE

Aim of the establishing the G-COE

The proposed COE will be established at the Ochanomizu University Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences to foster scholarship in the field of human development sensitive to social inequality and social injustice. In response to the given changes in the society, the proposed COE envisions scholarship that advances knowledge and at the same time addresses issues critical to our society through both academic training and research activities. Particular emphasis will be placed on the professional development of female researchers. In order to realize our vision, we strive to create a structure that enables and encourages synergistic interactions among researchers from different fields.

Firstly the COE will focus its educational programs on meeting the needs of qualified students and junior scholars worldwide. This commitment is based on reflections about the traditional academic climate which has resulted in the following problems:

1. Lack of communication and collaboration across disciplines.
2. Dichotomy between academic research and social practices.
3. Indifference to meeting societal needs.

By creating scholarship that meets the needs of contemporary society, these problems may be resolved. The proposed COE defines such scholarship as being sensitive to social justice, and our plan of professional training is based on this philosophy. Thus, we will devise two levels of training, foundational and innovative training, for graduate students and junior scholars. Next, in response to the rapid growth of social inequalities in Japan, inequalities occurring throughout lifespan development will be explored in terms of international, educational /social, and childrearing inequalities. Three research groups will be formed in correspondence with these three research areas. Empirical studies will be conducted to bring inequalities to the fore and to propose resolutions to abolish such disparities.

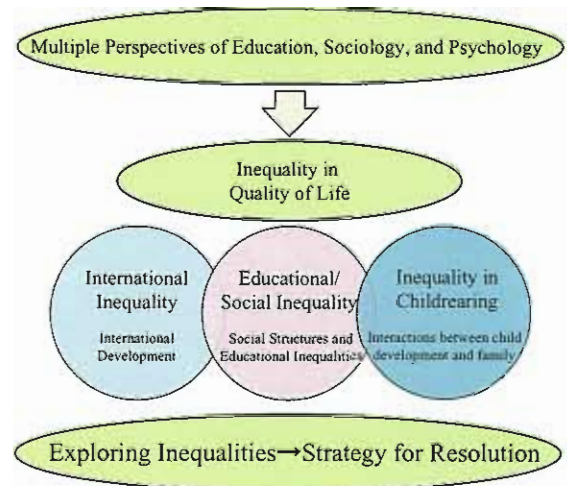


Research introduction of each area

Research activities of the proposed COE will be conducted by three research groups: International Inequality Research Group, Educational/Social Inequality Research Group, and Inequality in Childrearing Research group. Three groups liaise with each other to find resolutions for various forms of social inequalities.



[Viewpoint in the study]



ACTIVITIES IN FISCAL YEAR 2007

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 1 "Early Childhood Development in UNICEF: From the Perspective of International Inequality in Child Development!"

December 25, 2007

Yuko Nonoyama-Tarumi

This is a seminar on UNICEF's role in policy, programming and research in the field of early childhood development, with emphasis on marginalized children. The audience was primarily, academic researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and practitioners from JICA and NGOs. We enjoyed discussion about the international inequality of child development, and activities of UNICEF's early childhood programs.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 2 "Early Childhood Education in Asia"

January 10, 2008

Ki Sook Lee Dinh Hong Thai Nobuko Uchida

This is a seminar on the current situation and challenges of early childhood care and education in Asia. Two professors from South Korea and Vietnam made presentations on early child care and education in each country, and after that Prof. Uchida, Vice-President of Ochanomizu University, made comments from the viewpoint of Japan's experience. The participants were academic researchers, graduate and undergraduate students.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 3 "Primary Education in Vietnam"

January 14, 2008

Tran Dien Hien Takashi Hamano

This is a seminar on the disparities in Vietnam's primary education. For the purpose of understanding the primary education in Vietnam, Dr. Tran Dien Hien made a presentation on the systems and current situations, and challenges in primary education in Vietnam. After that, Prof. Hamano made a presentation on the regional disparities in Vietnam's primary education. The participants were academic researchers, graduate and undergraduate students.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 4 "Transforming Images of Japanese Women in the U.S.: Economic Development as Catalyst to Cultural Change in the 1950s and 2000s"

January 21, 2008

Jan Bardsley

The talk focused on the America's changing images of Japanese women from 1950s to the present. Over 50 people, including students, faculty members, and international scholars, participated and enjoyed the discussion on transforming images of Japanese women.



"Health Rights and Responsibilities: An International Exploration of Health Care"

Yasuki Kobayashi (Professor, University of Tokyo)
 Karen Seccombe Professor, Portland State University)
 Tran Diep Tuan (Lecturer, University of Medicine and Pharmacy at HoChiMinh City)
 Moderator: John Creighton Campbell (Professor, University of Michigan)



Overview of the symposium

Debbie Storrs, CSD visiting professor

Good health and access to health care is central to quality of life across the lifespan. Yet, nations across the world face challenges in providing accessible and affordable health care to its citizens. Questions of who is responsible for health care and whether health care is a right of citizenship were explored at an international symposium held at Ochanomizu University on January 13, 2008. Over 60 graduate students, professionals, and scholars attended the symposium to hear the insights of three renowned speakers on issues of health care status and challenges faced by Japan, United States, and Vietnam. Professor Yasuki Kobayashi, Professor of Public Health Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo provided the audience with a historical overview of how Japan's universal health care policy developed, noting the future health care challenges given the social, economic, and demographic changes currently at play in Japan. Professor Karen Seccombe of Portland State University presented on the current status of the U.S. health care system, providing evidence of the unsystematic nature of health care as well as the insufficiency of employer-based health care,



concluding that Americans are ready for change. Finally, Professor Tran Diep Tuan from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at HoChiMinh City provided an overview of the current health care status and medical service for children in Vietnam, emphasizing the significant progress made in the last decade but also pointing out the continued needs and challenges of providing quality of care to all Vietnamese children. A dynamic commentary on the speakers' presentations was made by Professor Campbell from the University of Michigan. Professor Campbell he identified that the central issue for each country is whether to utilize market-based or universal policies to successfully expand accessible health care to more residents. He noted that the U.S. model of health care, based on market and privatization, fails to provide its citizens access to quality care at reasonable costs. Given Japan's ability, through their universal health care system, to do so, the nation ought to be proud of its health care system. Despite media and conservative economists' claims that health care spending is "out of control," the empirical evidence suggests Japan has a reasonable and fairly stable rate of health care spending and can continue to maintain this with some policy changes within its universal health care system. Vice President Uchida made formal closing remarks, recognizing the importance of comparative analysis and encouraging the continued exploration of such inequities. A lively reception followed in which students, staff, faculty, and scholars engaged in informal discussions raised by the symposium.

Dr. Debbie Storrs has been teaching at Ochanomizu University as a visiting professor on a funded project "Communication for Society Development(CSD)." During her appointment at Ochanomizu, Dr. Storrs taught both undergraduate and graduate courses during the Fall 2007. Her research centers around rural health care, and she is the author of a number of publications. Among them are Making a Difference: University Students of Color Speak Out, "Imagining a Liberal Education: Critically Examining the Learning Process Through Simulation," and "Like a Bamboo: Representations of a Japanese War Bride." It is our pleasure to work with Dr. Storrs who eagerly made a plan of our symposium.

OVERSEAS PROGRAM MEMBERS



Lee, Ki Sook

Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences Visiting Professor, (Ewha Womans University, Korea) Child Education. Ph.D. International Inequality Research Group

Professor Ki Sook Lee earned her B.A. in early childhood education from Ewha Women's University, Seoul. After her serving as a dedicated teacher at the Demonstrated Kindergarten of Ewha Women's University, Professor Lee went into academia. She received her M.A. & Ph.D. in early childhood education from George Peabody College for Teachers, Vanderbilt University, in the United States. Upon her return to Korea in 1979, she has been affiliated with Ewha Women's University as a professor of early childhood education. Since then, Professor Lee has been leading early childhood education in Korea, serving as the President of the Korean Society for Early Childhood Education between 2005 and 2007, and currently is the President of Korean Association for Childhood Education International and the director of Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and care.



Dinh Hong Thai

Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences Visiting Professor, (Hanoi University of Education, Vietnam) Education. Ph.D. International Inequality Research Group

Dinh Hong Thai Associate Professor, Faculty of Early Childhood Education, Hanoi University of Education Dr. Dinh Hong Thai holds a Ph.D. in Education from Russian Academy of Education. His area of specialization is early child education, especially linguistic and pedagogy. He has published very widely in the field of early child education and development, such as Teaching Child to tell by Experience (2004), Language Teaching Arts (2005), Theory of Language Activities and Teaching Language (2005), Vietnamese Early Childhood Education in 60 years of Development (2006).

Future Research Plans

International Inequality Group

Our main interests are the structure of international inequality in human development and the assistances and policy challenges for reducing the inequality. We have ten members, from various fields such as developmental psychology, pediatric neurology, economics, early childhood education, educational development studies, etc.

We have four research topics; (1) Impact of early childhood experiences on literacy acquisition, (2) Community participation and education financing under the decentralization system, (3) Health and developmental disorders, (4) Challenges in international cooperation for reducing disparities.

Regarding to the first three topics, in the 2008 fiscal year we have a plan to develop the test battery and questionnaire that are applicable to target countries, such as South Korea and Vietnam and if possible, some other Asian countries. It will be based on intensive discussions between overseas partners and us. After the development of test batteries and questionnaires, we will conduct baseline survey in each country.

On the fourth topic, we have a plan to implement training programs and workshops in the field of early childhood care and development, partly based on the cooperation with JICA. Ochanomizu University was selected as a cooperation base in the field of early child development by MEXT in 2003, and has implemented many training programs. Based on these experiences, we have a plan of analyzing the effect of the training on early child development in developing countries.

Educational/Social Inequality Research Group

Empirical studies will be conducted to bring inequalities to the fore and to propose resolutions to abolish such disparities.

- (1) Examines the occurrence of inequalities within educational and occupational settings.
- (2) Implements a large-scale longitudinal study spanning from adolescence to adulthood and beyond as a continuation of JELS 2003.
- (3) Addresses the structure of gaps in academic achievement, life stage transition, and old adult development.
- (4) Illuminates the mechanisms of social inequalities during late adulthood.
- (5) Evaluates public policies to abolish educational/social inequalities using such methodologies as micro-simulation.



Childrearing Inequality Group

The objective of Childrearing Inequality Research Group is to find out the gaps which appear in quality of life through the life-course, focusing on the time-series interaction between environment and individuals in the various settings such as family, child-care facilities, and educational facilities. In 2008, to achieve our goal, we will conduct several longitudinal surveys about children's media use, childrearing environment of high-risk children, childrearing environment during infancy and toddlerhood, and family environment from pregnancy (Age 24 follow-up survey).

FUTURE SYMPOSIUM

EAST ASIA EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF CHILD STUDY

Theme :CHILDREARING ENVIRONMNTS IN CHINA AND JAPN

Time : April 19, 2008 (Sat), April 20, 2008 (Su)

Venue : Ochanomizu University

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE

<http://www.crn.or.jp/>



The aim of the exchange program is to examine the overall effects of childrearing environments on child growth and development with an integrated medical, psychological, educational and social viewpoint. While the children in the world share common biological background, they are living and growing in different social environments.

In learning the current situations of Chinese children, we will seek measures to overcome not only the specific problems of Japanese children but common problems shared among children in both China and Japan.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Now I am glad to send you the first Newsletters of our Global COE Program in Japanese and also in English. In spite of only a few months after starting of our study, many study achievements are already rising, and there wasn't a thing troubled with space making. From now on we will continue to send newsletters and hope you read and give some comments to us in advance.

Director of Public Relation information Committee :Kenji Miwa, Ph.D.

Published By

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