



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

Newsletter No.7

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Greetings from Chair of the International Committee

The mission of the International Committee is to promote intellectual exchanges and future collaborations with international scholars and institutions to establish a ‘global’ research center of excellence. The International Committee has been hosting the Global COE Program’s international symposiums as well as seminars helping early career scholars to present their research findings internationally. The content of each event is detailed on our program website (<http://ocha-gaps-gcoe.com/>). In particular, the

2009 symposium is available for on-demand viewing on the above website. We hope that you take a moment to lively experience one of our symposiums. Graduate students are always welcome to participate in our seminars to enhance your skills of communicating your research with international audience in English. We believe that your active involvement in our various events such as the Global COE international symposiums and seminars will extend your horizons.



Associate Professor Mika Omori
 International Committee Chair

Disciplinary Linkage Project

The Ochanomizu University Global COE Program has implemented the Disciplinary Linkage Project to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among three research fields: “International Inequality,” “Educational and Social Inequality,” and “Inequality in Childrearing.” The interdisciplinary symposium, the 7th in the Global COE Program Disciplinary Linkage Project, brought together experts in social services as well as education.

The 7th Disciplinary Linkage Project Symposium: “Prospects for Comprehensive Children’s Policies”

Date: September 4, 2010 (Saturday) 1:30pm–4:30pm

Venue: Ochanomizu University Inter-Faculty Building 2, Rm. 101

Number of Participants: 62



Professor Yoshiko Ito (Hokkai-Gakuen University) talked about child services in the United Kingdom with its strong emphasis on early education and care, focusing on processes of integrating childcare and preschool education, and integrating childcare and education with the welfare of the child. This was followed by Professor Reiho Kashiwame (Shukutoku University), who proposed a new system of child rearing based on the

ongoing unification of kindergartens with day nurseries after pointing out current problems with child and family welfare. Finally, Professor Sachiko Ikeda (Hosen College of Childhood Education) observed that the historical transformation of the term childcare and postwar views of the family and child rearing lack a coherent model of early childhood education and care.

The 4th International Symposium: “Child Development and Child-Rearing Environment: Parenting and the QOL of Children”

Date: October 5, 2010 (Tuesday) 4:00pm–7:00pm

Venue: Ochanomizu University Inter-Faculty Bldg. 2, Rm. 102

Language: English (English-Japanese interpretation provided)

Program:

PART I Symposium: “Child-Rearing Environment and the QOL in Asian Countries”

Keynote Report:

“Longitudinal Changes in Parent-Child QOL and Their Related Factors”

The program began with a keynote report from the GCOE Research Fellow Satoko Matsumoto highlighting factors that affect the quality of life (QOL) of parents and children through a longitudinal study of QOL. This was followed by four presenters from across Asia—China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan—who gave presentations identifying differences between QOL in urban and rural sectors and comparing the QOL of parents and children in their respective societies, using data from surveys conducted at kindergartens in each country.

Next, Dr. Sarah Friedman described an intervention program for mothers called “Legacy for Children” that gives mothers the long-term emotional and behavioral

support that they need to build and sustain a positive nurturing environment for raising children.

The symposium was judged a great success for bringing together top researchers for substantive discussions on interventions appropriate in different societies, the importance of societal systems that support such interventions, and the need to define the underlying mechanisms of interventions. The university’s graduate students actively asked questions in English and participated in heated discussions, and more than 100 students and researchers filled the symposium’s large lecture hall to near capacity.

Satoko Matsumoto (Ochanomizu University)

“Interim Reports from Asian Countries”

Lingzhong Xu (Shandong University, China)

Nichara Ruangdaraganon (Mahidol University, Thailand)

Tuan Diep Tran (Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam)

Yoko Anji (Ochanomizu University, Japan)

PART II Keynote Address: “Intervention for Mothers”

Sarah Friedman (Associate Director, Institute for Public Research, CNA, USA)



Lecture: “Competency and Assessment in Lifelong Learning”

A seminar on lifelong learning was held on September 21, 2010 (Tuesday). Professor Yi Byung Jun (Pusan National University) gave a lecture entitled “Social Environment, Competency and

Assessment,” and Ms. Park Ji Yeon (researcher at BK21, Pusan National University) made a presentation entitled “Social Analysis about Participants in Museums Using the Theory of P.

Bourdieu.” After the presentations, 12 participants discussed the speakers’ research themes, research methods, etc.

Lecture: “Globalization: New Challenge and Opportunities for Adult and Higher Education”

A lecture by Dr. Sharan S. Merriam, Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia, was held on October 16, 2010 (Saturday), co-hosted with the National Institute for Educational Policy Research. Dr. Merriam averred at the symposium that in the rapidly changing, globalized society, the role of adult education and higher education must also change. She said the

following three approaches were necessary for the rapidly changing society: 1. Non-Western (Asian and African) perspectives, 2. holistic learning perspective (learning using one’s body), and 3. critical perspectives (gender perspective etc.). About 40 participants earnestly listened to her presentation, and many of them actively posed questions to her.



Open Seminars

International Seminar: “Inequality and Early Childhood Development in Burkina Faso and Mali”

Co-hosted with Ochanomizu University’s Global Collaboration Center, the Global COE Program held an international seminar on September 9, 2010 (Wednesday). The university invited a total of ten educational administrators from central and local governments, school inspectors, and teaching staff from teachers’ colleges from four Francophone Central and West African countries (Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso). The international seminar examined disparities in the current conditions of children and in the development

of infants in Mali and Burkina Faso. Presenters from the two countries discussed many topics, including the countries’ support systems for infants, statistics on participation in preschool programs, disparities in the development of children and in participation of programs, issues surrounding supporting the development of infants, and the knowledge and skills the presenters wish to learn from research in Japan. The international seminar provided a forum for lively exchanges of views among experts from the four African countries and Japan.



International Seminar: “Inequality and Early Childhood Development in Senegal and Cameroon”

The second international seminar of the seminar series described above was held on September 30, 2010 (Thursday), focusing on disparities in the conditions of children and in the development of infants in Senegal and Cameroon. Presenters from the two countries discussed support systems for infants, the state of participation in preschool programs, disparities in the development of children and in participation of programs, issues concerning support for the development of infants, among

other topics. Experts from the four African countries and Japan energetically exchanged views. The university is engaged in a variety of activities to provide international assistance. In October 2010, it established “International Assistance Month,” and developed many activities to provide international support, including accepting the ten trainees from African countries. These international assistance activities are also presented as part of the National University Festa 2010.



International Seminar: “Action Plans for the Improvement of Early Childhood Development of Central and West African Countries”

On October 19, 2010 (Tuesday), participants from the four African countries discussed above presented action plans to improve support of the development of children in each of their countries. These action plans were the result of three weeks of training by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and Ochanomizu University. To create the plans, the participants integrated what they learned about Japan’s early childhood education system, policies concerning infants, childcare planning and implementation, childcare theories, policies

to correct disparities, promotion of citizen participation, efforts of local communities, education of disabled infants, workshops on creating educational materials, and so on. During the international seminar, not only did participants from the four African countries exchanged views, but participants from Japan, supporting institutions, and overseas researchers also contributed valuable comments, making the event a lively session. There were 25 participants.



JELS Seminar: “Complementary Learning”

On November 15, 2010 (Monday), Jane Nicholson, Executive Officer, Complementary Learning Division, Oakland Unified School District, gave a presentation on the complementary learning program practiced in Oakland. Oakland, which has a high percentage of families in the poverty level and families whose first language is not English, established the first official department of complementary learning in the United States in 2007. The goal is to support children’s learning both inside and outside schools from birth to adolescence, and

this free support is offered only to children of families below a certain level of income. As distinctive characteristics of the program, Ms. Nicholson discussed consolidating wide-ranging resources and service, continuing children’s experience of success, and guaranteeing rich learning opportunities, which are taken for granted by children of middle-class families, to children of lower-class families. The 33 participants of this event joined in a lively Q&A session.



Reports from Research Assistants (RAs)

The first RA research presentation meeting of the 2010 academic year was held on September 27, 2010 (Monday). RAs at the D2 level or above and some at the D1 level presented reports, while other D1 RAs commented on the presentations. Furthermore, there was a Q&A session for every three presentations, during which animated discussions took place among researchers in the different fields of education, psychology, and sociology. This event contributed deeply to mutual understanding and exchange of research between young researchers. For the second RA research presentations on February 7, 2011 (Monday), the D1 RAs and D2 and above RAs exchanged reporting and commenting roles. The activities of three RAs, selected from the 36 RAs employed in 2010, are reported below.



Ms. Yui Ashitani (Psychology D1)

To study the expertization of sensorimotor synchronization of auditory and motor perception, I am conducting research on the task of finger-tapping. I am carrying out experiments to produce subjects who become experts. Being selected as an RA means that I could spend time on research, instead of time on a part-time job. I was able to obtain the tools needed for my experiments, and furthermore, my RA tasks helped me make progress in my research. The activities of an RA allow me to have exchanges with other researchers in different fields at research presentation meetings, and also to re-consider my presentation methods and the significance of my own research. Assisting in running an international symposium was also a valuable experience. I thank the Global COE Program for giving me such opportunities.

Ms. Yukako Nakane (Psychology D1)

The goal of my research is to create an educational program package in psychology for interpersonal relationships. I am currently taking a practical approach at junior high schools in this study. To make sure the program reflects the particular needs of each school, this year I am revising and implementing the program content that has been used so far. In addition, I have created formats to gather and organize information related to the particular needs of each school. I have gained knowledge to further improve the program from the results. The research presentation meeting was a good opportunity to review my research. My research requires intimate collaboration with schools, and preparing the program takes a lot of time. So I am grateful for the support of the RA program.

Ms. Takako Takeyama (Education D3)

My research seeks to understand how children are perceived in the history of music culture. I especially seek to understand the birth of music recitals by children in the 19th century and its intellectual background, so I investigate newspapers and music periodicals of that period. The RA program allows me to order literature from the United Kingdom and Germany, and made collecting materials at faraway libraries a smooth process. I was also able to actively participate in academic and research conferences. This year, I participated in two RA research presentation meetings, and not only presented my own research findings, but also commented on research in other fields. This allowed me to widen the scope of my knowledge. I am thankful for the Global COE RA program.

INFORMATION ON SCHEDULED EVENTS

Research Presentations by 2010 Grant-in-Aid Researchers

Twenty-three 2010 grant-in-aid researchers will hold a research presentation meeting. We look forward to your attendance.

Date: April 4, 2011 (Monday) 0:30pm–5:00pm

Venue: Ochanomizu University Faculty of Letters & Education Building 1, Rm. 302

For details, please refer to the Ochanomizu University Global COE website:

<http://ocha-gaps-gcoe.com/>



Editorial Board

In this issue, we report lectures and meetings held in each research area of the Global COE Program during the second half of the 2010 academic year, as well as a Disciplinary Linkage Project symposium. In addition, we present our international symposium and numerous international seminars, which deal with the problem of disparities in international society. The next academic year is the final year of the Global COE Program. We wish to continue to present the contents of our activities and research achievements.

Editor: Meichin LEE

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