

Keio Research Institute at SFC's The New "Japanese Studies" in Theory and Practice

The New "Japanese Studies" in Theory and Practice project being developed by the Keio Research Institute at SFC's Japanese Studies Platform Laboratory has been chosen to receive a grant from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Research Project Leader: Professor Jiro Kokuryo, Dean of the Faculty of Policy Management; Research Period: Academic year 2011 to academic year 2013). Through this project our laboratory will work on activities aimed at creating a center of excellence for research that will help establish SFC, and in turn Keio University, as a hub for the international Japanese Studies network.

Since its foundation, SFC has been continuously searching for ways to shape society, and the policies to achieve this are based on practical research aimed at finding solutions to the problems facing Japanese society now and in the near future. This project conceptualizes such research as "about Japan," while collaborative research with foreign research institutions that are interested in these problems is classed as "with Japan" and research taking place within Japan is "in Japan." The amalgamation of these three strands is what we refer to as "New Japanese Studies." In other words, for this project Japanese society is not just viewed as a subject for research, but as a partner for research and a research field in its own right. Against such a backdrop, international society very much shares the problems which confront Japan, as the policy issues that Japan faces and the measures to tackle those issues are, for international society, understood as an appealing subject, partner and field for research. Under an international research network, we can intensify research about these problems, identify the policies to solve them, and hence offer proposals originating from SFC and Keio University.

For this project, the problems facing Japanese society were classified under the following four types.

- Type 1: Problems arising due to low birthrate and aging society
- Type 2: Problems arising along with advancement of information-oriented society
- Type 3: Problems incorporating East Asian international relations
- Type 4: Problems related to construction of global networks

Subsequently, the joint research networks established through this project with various national and regional research and cultural exchange bodies across the world should encourage development towards a more international student community, along with a greater acceptance of international students and researchers from overseas. In such a way this project aims to promote the internationalization of Keio University, focused on SFC. In particular, at SFC the project is regarded, along with the GIGA (Global Information and Communication Technology and Governance Academic) Program, as a cornerstone of the campus's internationalization strategy. Through promotion of measures to complement the University's Create the Future School concept, it is hoped that this project will become a powerful force for driving SFC to be an international base for research and educational exchange.

Related Links

Keio Research Institute at SFC, Japanese Studies Platform Laboratory:

<http://www.kri.sfc.keio.ac.jp/en/lab/jsp.html>

GIGA Program:

<http://ic.sfc.keio.ac.jp/>

Contact

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* Please change [at] to @ when sending an email.