Modernity Studies

The basic framework of our contemporary society consists of three distinct realms, the techno-economic structure, the polity, and the culture. The ruling principles of these three realms, such as functionary rationality, the idea of equality, and expression & realization of "self," originated in Western Europe with the arrival of the modern period. Today, however, these principles are proved to be discordant and are being shaken to their roots along with the progress of globalization. This situation demands a re-examination of the meaning of "modernity" and an accurate reading of just where the world is (should be) heading in the ongoing upheaval. The Modernity Studies Group covers a wide range of disciplines from social thought, economic thought, and political thought to aesthetics, literature and visual arts. Through careful analysis of the prevailing principles of the three realms of the modern world, we aim to cultivate firmly grounded capabilities of cogitation that are required for tackling actual issues in our society.

Students' research themes

Master's program: M. Foucault and Herculine Barbin, Peter Berger's idea of "everyday" and religion, Alfred Schutz's idea of "relevance" Doctoral program: Ernst Junger, "technology," Niklas Luhmann, social system theory, Herbert Spencer, modernization of Japanese society, D. H. Lawrence, eco-criticism

Teaching staff

Keiko ISHIDA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Cultural Discourse
Research fields: Aesthetics and history of art theory. Associate Professor Ishida conducts her studies under such themes as the relations between art and politics in modern times and the artistic communication with others. Her research papers include "Gestalt and <Art - Political Community>" ("Theory of Criticism and Social Theory 1: Aisthesis," Ochanomizu Shobo), etc.Her books include "Politicization of Aesthetics: Modernist Poets and Fascism" (Keio U. P.)

Yoshihiko ICHIDA, Professor

Subjects: Modern Economic Thought
Research fields: Social thought. Professor Ichida studies philosophical segments of politics, economy and culture, with a focus on the contemporary French thought of Althusser, Foucault and Deleuze. His books include "Althusser: Philosophy of a Connection."

Naritoshi UENO, Professor Subjects: Modern Political Thought Research fields: History of political and social thought. Professor Ueno analyses such key concepts as "violence," "liberty" and "public sphere" in the form of social philosophy, focusing on the history of thought concerning the philosophers of the Frankfurt School including Horkheimer and Adorno. His books include "Frontier of the Thought - Violence" (Iwanami Shoten).

Yuii SHIKANO, Assistant Professor

Subjects: Modern Social Thought.
Research fields: Contemporary French Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Psychoanalysis. Assistant Professor Shikano studies the history of philosophy and psychoanalytic theory with a focus on the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, in considering the social and political situation at that time. His books include "Study and Commentary on Gilles Deleuze's Logic of Sense: event, amor fati, and permanent revolution" (Iwanami Shoten).

Rie MATSUYA, Professor

Subjects: Cultural Representation
Research fields: English literature and philosophy. Professor Matsuya explores the contemporary meanings of Romanticism with a focus on the views of nature and sympathetic imagination. Her books include "Keats and Apollo: Ketas' Poems and Greco-Roman Mythology" (Eihosha).

Contemporary Social Issues

The interaction of humans with nature has been seriously undermined and is becoming increasingly complex in modern society. The objective of the "Contemporary Social Issues" course is gaining understanding of contemporary society through an interdisciplinary approach that bridges the humanities and social sciences in exploring leading issues in modern society. For example, we analyze the changes in thinking surrounding nation states, families and individuals from the perspective of gender theory to capture socially constructed human relations; envision an equitable solution to global challenges such as overpopulation, absolute poverty, human-rights violation, climate change etc.; and seek to understand human nature and society in a multicultural world faced with informatization of the consumer society facilitated by innovation in media technology. The "Contemporary Social Issues" course disentangles these conflicting problems theoretically, and provides a means of tackling them realistically.

Students' research themes

- · Gender division of labor in the home in urban China
- · Euthanasia seen from the perspective of the right to self-determination
- · Why is the sex selection of a child unacceptable?
- · Racism in dance hall reggae
- · A sociological study of "created communities"
- · Urban youth subcultures in Japan: The changing perception of public space with reference to the case of parkour
- · NPO/NGO network media: Is accessing the public sphere possible through the Internet?
- · Occupation and sexuality: GHQ's policy-making on prostitution (Doctoral dissertation)
- · Feminism as relation: From the perspective of interaction between images, individuals and methodology
- · Changes of heart and the development of moral individualism (Doctoral dissertation)

Teaching staff

Subjects: Gender and Society

Research fields: Sociology, migration, gender and sexuality. Professor Aoyama is also interested in issues such as globalization, multiculturalism, social exclusion and inclusion, the right to intimacy and representation. She is pursuing a combination of theoretical and empirical research methodologies to look into phenomena that cause changes across public and private life such as immigration, care / sex workers, same-sex marriage, and gender identity "disorder."

Hiroki OGASAWARA, Professor Subjects: Media and Cultural Studies

Research fields: Professor Ogasawara is studying sociology and cultural studies. He is critically examining the rerationship between multicultural capitalism and racism especially in the fields of media and sport from empirical, theoretical and historical perspectives

Haruko KUDO, Lecturer

Subjects: Norms and Cultures

Coming from transnational sociology, my research focuses on the relationship between international migration and gender and sexuality, particularly the norms of sexuality in refugee and forced migration. Having worked in the humanitarian field, I am also interested in the issue of violence within humanitarian assistance/activities and the power relations between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries.

Tetsu SAKURAI, Professor

Subjects: Contemporary Jurisprudence
Research fields: Professor Sakurai's speciality is legal philosophy; he is particularly engaged in "global justice," i.e., how we should understand the meaning of national borders when we address global issues such as absolute deprivation, economic disparities, human rights violations and environmental pollution. He is now working on a conflict between universal human rights and national sovereignty the contemporary large-scale immigration raises

Akihiko NISHIZAWA, Professor

Subjects: Contemporary Social Theory
Research fields: Professor Nishizawa is studying sociology and urban studies. He has been dealing with contemporary social problems, focusing on the life-world and the identity of the urban poor confronted with social exclusion. His recent books include The Sphere of Poverty: Who is excluded?, Kawadeshobo Shinsha, etc.

Art, Culture and Society Studies

Art and Culture Theory Courses are configured from an arts and culture environment system and content-based arts and culture. Research is conducted on fine art (painting), literature, performing arts (music, opera, theater), and fashion art and how they are related to society.

In content-based arts and culture, social awareness and the worldview reflected through analysis of artwork are considered. In the arts and culture environment system, art management connecting the arts and society is examined and the grand design of cultural policies, considering factors such as the guarantee of the right of easy access to art and actual cultural facility management are compared internationally.

In this course, we welcome candidate students, regardless of their undergraduate major, who are interested in art and supporting its environment as well as those who are keen to undertake specialist learning.

Students' research themes

Master's program: Local community, Public theater organizational management, Network formation between non-profit organizations, Community art, Art project in sojin area Social and Cultural Center in Berlin, Civic activities and cultural policy in Sweden, Protection and application of cultural heritages: historic sites of France and China, City space improvement in Paris, Congolese Diaspora in Belgium, Indie bands of Japan and Korea, Church building during the Russian Imperial Period, Japonism, Tadamasa Hayashi, French Impressionist painter Gustave Caillebotte, French Women Writer, Japanese avant-garde calligraphy and abstract expressionism painting, Women and modes in France, Japanese Street Fashion.

Doctoral program: Cultural Policy and social inclusion, Modern advertising in Japan, Daumier and the modern city of Paris, Acceptance of modern French music in prewar Japan, Formation of Japanese ceramics collections in France and the trade between Japan and France, Kenji Miyazawa and the optics, Cultural policy in Singapore.

Teaching staff

Hiroko IKEGAMI, Professor

Subjects: Modern and Contemporary Art Studies

Research fields: She specializes in post-1945 American art and its global impact, but she also conducts research and writes about postwar Japanese art. She is currently working on post-WWII cultural exchange between the United States and Japan and its relationship to cultural diplomacy in the Cold War period.

Kazuko IWAMOTO, Professor Subjects: Art and Multicultural Society

Research fields: Her research interests are French-speaking culture, particularly 19th century French literature and the problems of cultural identity and cultural policy in neighboring multilingual Belgium.

Yoshiko OKAMOTO, Lecturer Subjects: Modernism in Art

Research fields: Her main interest is theater studies, particularly Central and Eastern European operas and dramas at the turn of the twentieth century. She is currently analyzing Hungarian music theater works and the process of changes and expansion of their performances.

Hiromi MATSUI, Associate Professor Subjects: Art in Contemporary Society

Research fields: My research interest is to analyze the close relationship of art with politics, society, literature and science. My classes will be the place to consider the problematic of the cognition, the formation of value and the identity focusing the development of the western modern and contemporary

Linguistics and Communication Studies

Rather than a mere means of communication to convey concepts and messages to another party, "language" is also closely related to culture and human cognition, thinking and customs. This course seeks for an effective method of teaching Japanese as a second language based on comparative and contrastive analysis related to language structure and language usage. Language and cultural analysis and methodologies are developed for second language acquisition and translation/interpretation, and we are working on solving the problems of cross-cultural communication, which is becoming essential with the progress of globalization. This course aims to train human resources who have education and research abilities through various lectures and exercises related to verbal communication leading from basic to advanced levels.

Students' research themes

Master's program: Modality in Thai, Fillers in Japanese and French, Rhetoric, Persuasion, Words written in Katakana, Translation of onomatopoeia in comics, Bilingualism, Social aspect of Japanese language education, etc.

Doctoral program: Compound verbs, Rhetoric of fiction, Translation of Japanese literature in Vietnam, Contrastive study of verbs in Japanese and Chinese, Acquisition of L2 morphosyntax, Historical study of Japanese language education.

Teaching staff

Yuki ISHIDA, Lecture

Subjects: Usage-based Linguistic Typology

Research fields: His research interest is to analyze French literature in terms of linguistic and narratology. He is working on ideological and cultural issues such as self-identity, happiness, translation and Cross-cultural understanding. His current research deals with self-narrative and happiness of self-narrative.

Naoe KAWAKAMI, Lecturer

Subjects: Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Practical application)
Research fields: My research field is historical study of Japanese language education. In particular, I am interested in the historical progress of Japanese language in Japan and China. By analyzing Japanese learning and teaching from a historical perspective, I would like to discuss the significance, role and status of Japanese language education in society. I am also interested in studying training for non-native Japanese teachers.

Tetsuta KOMATSUBARA, Lecturer Subjects: Rhetorical Communication Theory

Research fields: My main focus involves the field of figurative language study. Specific attention goes to pragmatic effects of metaphor and metonymy, to creative meaning in wordplay, and to grammatical constructions of figurative language. My theoretical orientation is mainly that of cognitive linguistics, with a special emphasis on conceptual metaphor theory and cognitive grammar.

Miho SAITO, Associate Professor

Subjects: Special lecture on means of teaching Japanese

Research Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Method) immar, including regional dialects. In addition, I have a strong interest in the field of teaching/learning Japanese as a foreign/second language. I am planning to carry out researches on teaching methods and coursework of Japanese based on the result of the research on Japanese grammar and my own practice of teaching Japanese.

Junko TANAKA, Professor

Subjects: Second Language Acquisition
Research fields: Her research interests include the role of feedback and output in SLA processes and the role of individual differences in SLA such as age, language aptitude, and motivation. Her current research project deals with how a concept in a second language (L2) that does not exist in the learners' first language (L1) can be correctly or incorrectly segmented and mapped onto L2 morphology. She is also interested in classroom SLA as well as SLA in naturalistic or multilingual contexts.

Soovun PARK, Lecturer

Subjects: Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Content)

Research fields: Her primary area of interest in research is Japanese linguistics. She has been working on the descriptive grammar of modern Japanese. Her research interest lies especially in the meaning and function of adverbs in Japanese. Her research projects also include the perspectives of the pedagogical grammar of Japanese and contrastive linguistics.

Fumiko FUJINAMI, Professor

Subjects: Translation Theory

Research fields: The main themes are general practical theories on using translation for intercultural communication, and how to adapt it in detail to actual translation (especially between Japanese, German and English). I also have a keen interest in how to realize translations across cultural differences, and what effect the audience, media and goal have on translation work.

Human Communication

Human Communication Program presents a wide range of opportunities for research about communication based on human sciences and cognitive sciences. Students can learn advanced knowledge of communication by studying phonetics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, ps neurology, and performance science.

A PhD candidate must learn basic skills of statistics and will be advised to master an advanced level of statistics. Research should be performed through evidence-based studies. You have to gather enough data in both quality and quantity before you come to a conclusion.

Our M.A. program is divided into two tracks; the career enhancement track and the researcher track.

Carrier enhancement track is aimed at students who want to develop skills for a career outside of academic societies. Students will acquire up-to-date knowledge and research skills. Students, with guidance from professors and senior students, will submit an MA report.

The researcher track is more aimed at students who want to go on to do a Ph.D. with more focus on research skills than the Career enhancement track. The other main difference is that students submit an M.A. thesis to complete the course.

Students1 research themes

- · The influence of working memory contents on visual search
- · Cueing effects of target location probability and repetition
- · A Japanese-Chinese comparison on syntax and sentence delivery
- · The traits of tandem learning, seen from scenes of language output difficulties
- · Changes in prosody caused by shadowing training of Japanese
- · Recognition and acoustic features of attitudes realized in Chinese
- · Performer-and-audience dynamics in music communication

Teaching staff

Rvoko HAYASHI, Professor

Subjects: Neurolinguistics

Research fields: Speech science, psycholinguistics. I am researching phonetics in Japanese and other languages as well as experimental solutions to the difficulties in pronunciation for foreign languages. Also, I am interested in speech disabilities, linguistic development and the difference in teaching speech communication between countries.

omoko TATSUMI, Lecturer

Subjects: Interactional Grammar

Research fields: Child language acquisition, psycholinguistics. I am studying young children's language learning by using experimental and corpus-analysis methods. I am especially interested in how our linguistic experience is processed and organized into a grammatical knowledge

Toru, MINAMIMOTO, Assistant Professor Subject: Language Interface Theory

Research fields: Linguistics, historical linguistics, Indo-European studies, studies of Ancient Greek. I mainly work on the dialects of Ancient Greek. The Ancient Greek people wrote their decrees and contracts in their local dialects and inscribed them in stones. By comparing inscriptions from different parts of Greece, we can find out the characteristics of each dialect, and can study the historical background of the dialects. I am also interested in how diverse human languages could be, and learning the Japanese Sign Language little by little.

Eriko MATSUMOTO, Professor

Subjects: Neuropsychology and Communication

Research fields: Cognitive psychology, neuropsychology, and cognitive neuroscience. I am interested in how human brain represents the higher-cognitive functions such as the visual perception, attention, and social interactions. I would like to make it clearer through brain imaging techniques and experimental psychological methods. I am also interested in the effects of emotional stimuli on cognitive process.

Rvo KITADA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Nonverbal Communication

Focuses of my research are (1) to understand the mechanisms underlying multisensory perception and social cognition and (2) how innate and postnatal experience are interacted with each other to develop them. I use multiple methods (e.g., psychophysics and neuroimaging techniques) to address these questions.

Computers and Communication

The Computer Communication course is a course on using information technology, such as computers and the Internet, for teaching and research. This course teaches the latest online information skills, collection, analysis and sorting of communicative information on computers, and other such immediately useful high-level information processing skills, which will also allow more effective communication in future.

Students' research themes

Analysis of the forms of study in branches of information, Automated classification of literature XML searching method Learning system for IT specialists Error-checker in foreign language learning systems, Utilization of memory mechanism in learning systems, Bottom-up question support system, Communication-based city rating, Reverse onomatopoeia dictionary, User interface, Communication assistance

Teaching staff

Kazuhiro OHTSUKI, Professor

Subjects: Computer Communication Systems

Research fields: Research relating to info-communication systems. The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake made it painfully clear that there is a gap between the viewpoint of those using the information, and those building information distribution systems. As such, I've come to place a heavy emphasis on the position of those on the scene.

Min KANG, Professor

Subjects: Computer Simulation

Research fields: The adaptation of information communication technology to computer education and foreign language education. In particular, I am focusing on using statistics-based approaches to extract the user's preferences and give them the information that suits their needs.

denari KIYOMITSU, Associate Professor

Subjects: Information Systems and Databases

Research fields: I aim to use data at a higher level, through web information systems and databases The theme is being able to personalize output for each user based on time, place, user profile, access history and so forth.

Takeshi NISHIDA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Applied Computer Science

Research fields: I am researching human-human interaction using info-communication technology, as well as human-computer interaction. In particular, I put focus on (1) developing systems based on reflection of common communication problems such as the difficulty of reaching consensus, giving criticism, or talking in foreign languages, and (2) learning from testing systems developed in actual situations

Hajime MURAO, Professor

Subjects: Social Systems Science

Research fields: Using "soft information processing" technology and multi-agent systems to research the intelligent actions of humans and other groups of living things, analyzing and adapting the results. The targets include small groups of individuals, society, the economy, and the Internet.