

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 this 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 Hermine 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. I conduct studies under such themes as the relations between art and politics in modern times and the artistic communication with others. [My 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. I study philosophical segments of politics, economy and culture, with a focus on the contemporary French thought of Althusser, Foucault and Deleuze. [I have published "Althusser: Philosophy of a Connection."]

Naritoshi UENO, Professor

Subjects: Modern Political Thought

Research fields: History of political and social thought. I analyze 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. [I have published "Frontier of the Thought – Violence" (Iwanami Shoten).]

Yuji SHIKANO, Assistant Professor

Subjects: Modern Social Thought

Research fields: Contemporary French philosophy, history of philosophy, psychoanalysis. I study the history of philosophy and psychoanalytic theory with a focus on the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, considering the social and political situation at that time. [I have published "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. I explore the contemporary meanings of Romanticism with a focus on the views of nature and sympathetic imagination. [I have published "Keats and Apollo: 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 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

Kaoru AOYAMA, Professor

Subjects: Gender and Society

Research fields: Sociology, migration, gender and sexuality. I am 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 lives such as immigration, care / sex workers, same-sex marriage, and gender identity "disorder."

Hiroki OGASAWARA, Professor

Subjects: Media and Cultural Studies

Research fields: I am studying sociology and cultural studies. I am critically examining the relationship 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: My specialty is legal philosophy; I am 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. I am now working on conflicts between universal human rights and national sovereignty that contemporary large-scale immigration raises.

Akihiko NISHIZAWA, Professor

Subjects: Contemporary Social Theory

Research fields: I am studying sociology and urban studies. I have been dealing with contemporary social problems, focusing on the life-world and the identity of the urban poor confronted with social exclusion. [My 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 as reflected through analysis of artwork are considered. In the arts and culture environment system, arts management connects the arts and society examining and the grand design of cultural policies, considering factors such as the right of easy access to art and actual cultural facility management from an international perspective.

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: I specialize in post-1945 American art and its global impact, but I also conduct research and writes about postwar Japanese art. I am 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: My 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: My main interest is theater studies, particularly Central and Eastern European operas and dramas at the turn of the twentieth century. I am currently analyzing Hungarian music theater works and the process of changes and expansion of their performances.

Eisuke Takada, Lecturer

Subjects: Contemporary Cultural Policy

Research fields: I specialize in the 19th-century Russian writer and playwright Chekhov. My research focuses on the relationship between literature and science, and the problems confronting humanity. I am also interested in contemporary Russian literature.

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 those 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: Fillers in Japanese and French, Persuasion and Rhetoric, Words written in Katakana, Translation of onomatopoeia in comics, Bilingualism, Social aspect of Japanese language education.

Doctoral program: Compound verbs, Rhetoric of fiction, Free indirect speech and stylistics, Contrastive study of verbs in Japanese and Chinese, Acquisition of L2 morphosyntax, Historical study of Japanese language education, Effects of corrective feedback in the learning of L2 Japanese *ni*, *de*, *o*.

Teaching staff

Yuki ISHIDA, Lecturer

Subjects: Usage-based Linguistic Typology

Research fields: My research interest is the analysis of French literature in terms of linguistics and narratology. I am working on ideological and cultural issues such as self-identity, happiness, translation and Cross-cultural understanding. My 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 the historical study of Japanese language education. In particular, I am interested in the historical progress of the Japanese language in Japan and China. By analyzing Japanese learning and teaching from a historical perspective, I explore 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: Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Method)

Research fields: I am currently researching modern Japanese grammar, 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 research 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: My research interests include the role of feedback and output in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) processes and the role of individual differences in SLA such as age, language aptitude, and motivation. My 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. I am also interested in classroom SLA as well as SLA in naturalistic or multilingual contexts.

Sooyun PARK, Lecturer

Subjects: Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Content)

Research fields: My primary area of interest in research is Japanese linguistics. I have been working on the descriptive grammar of modern Japanese. My research interest lies especially in the meaning and function of adverbs in Japanese. My research projects also include the perspectives of 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 apply it 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 goals have on translation work.

Yusuke MINAMI, Associate Professor

Subjects: Comparative and Contrastive Linguistics

Research fields: My primary interest lies in analyzing grammatical constructions in English and Japanese from the perspective of cognitive and functional linguistics, which holds that linguistic signs are motivated by human cognitive abilities and communicative purposes. My main works include shedding light on grammatical constructions that have not drawn much attention in the literature and exploring what they reveal about the organization of the speaker's linguistic knowledge.

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, psychology, 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.

Career 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.

Students' 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

Ryoko 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.

Ryo 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.

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.

Tomoko 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.

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.

Hidenari KIYOMITSU, 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.