

INVITATION TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Dean's Message

It is common knowledge that the world around us is changing more and more due to what we call globalization. In fact, while global exchange has a long history, as seen in the Silk Road, the speed and degree of this exchange has been incomparably greater in recent years. Furthermore, advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) are changing our forms of communication. In the post-COVID world, the range of things that can be performed online has undoubtedly expanded. The recent development of generative AI also foreshadows the emergence of a new other.

When people and cultures with differing backgrounds and values come into contact, it is natural that intense friction and conflict occur. There are deep-seated issues that cannot be fixed by simply making small changes in the way we think. Furthermore, in recent years, the so-called 'Anthropocene' has become a major issue of human intervention in the natural environment. How then should we live in this world?

Francis B. Nyamnjoh (1961-), an anthropologist and philosopher from Cameroon, seeks to view the essence of the world through the lens of 'incompleteness' of all existence. In this world, 'incomplete' humans have created an incomplete world by facing and drawing from incomplete things and supernatural forces. This includes man-made things such as ICTs. It may all be superficial, as with the 'curious creature' depicted by Nigerian author Amos Tutuola (1920-1997), which uses borrowed material to disguise itself as a 'complete gentleman'. In *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*, the 'curious creature' is nothing more than a skeleton.

Encounters with that which is alien rarely provide ideal balance, harmony, symphony or polyphony, regardless of the degree of effort. Rather, they are usually accompanied by cacophony (dissonance) that is a typical reflection or symbolization of our modern activities such as academic research.

Nevertheless, Nyamnjoh does not despair about the world or humanity. According to him, humans must recognize this cacophony and negotiate and come to terms with it, while at the same time resisting the temptations of division, isolation, and domination, and ultimately aim to realize conviviality in which they can share mutual benefits such the benefits of collaborative research.

Human society is always at risk of devolving into a zero-sum game in which the strong unilaterally exploit the weak based on a single value system. This is something that not only Nyamnjoh, but various other outstanding thinkers have sounded the alarm about in unison.

Nyamnjoh states that living as a human being is ultimately a cycle of borrowing and lending. It is important to recognize that the nature of life is borrowing and lending and that there are debts that can never be repaid. That is, there are debts to that humans owe the natural environment, resources, and supernatural forces such as our ancestors that cannot be repaid.

We tend to forget that our current existence is the result of having received various things from various places. In a sense, we are always in debt, and many of those debts cannot be repaid by the persons who have received benefits. Some things in life cannot be repaid. It is also easy to forget that all humans are interconnected and that we support and depend on each other. We forget that the logic of reciprocity, donation, distribution, and altruism is one of the essences of human nature and sociality, and is the most fundamental survival strategy.

As 'incomplete' human beings, we need various tools to ensure survival. Yet it is often the case that there might be no ready-made tool available that matches the need. It requires a process similar to bricolage, in which items that may seem like junk at first glance are put together to create something. And since we are gathered in an academic environment, I make bold to remind us that there is no successful research that is not built on bricolage. As researchers therefore, we are bricoleurs.

The rule of bricolage is to make do with what is available, that is, with the tools and materials that are at hand at the time. All tools and materials are miscellaneous items that are collected without regard to what the ultimate aim at that time is. They are not collected with a certain purpose in mind. The stock is updated and increased on various occasions, and collection from previous creations and destructions is performed. The persons involved confirm if the tools are appropriate for the intended operation and if it seems necessary, it is possible to change tools at any time or simultaneously use multiple tools without hesitation, regardless of whether if the origin or form of the tool is alien.

Regarding undergraduate and graduate school education, there is often discussion about how to acquire skills and abilities that will be visibly useful after graduation. This is not necessarily wrong. However, if one falls into teleology, where one considers a simple purpose and the means to reach it as a set, a shallow and simplistic way of thinking ends up developing.

We should look far into the future, as humans are much more complex and multifaceted. Things that are useful at present quickly become useless. Of course, we would also like to provide you with things that are directly connected to your career, but our greatest desire is to create a place where you can unexpectedly encounter a 'someone' or a 'something' that will support you when the things that you used to rely on are no longer useful. It may be different for each person. Rather, it should be. For example, for one person, it might be French language skills, but for another, it might be networking and communication with friends far from home who were encountered while studying abroad, and for another, it might be a piece of poetry that the person happened to come across in a the corner of a classroom or the library written by a complete stranger or a wayfarer.

Rather, what we would like to provide more than tools (i.e., skills) with a clear purpose, is an environment that provides an encounter with something different for each person that will support that individual's future. In the extreme, it is a place of 'encounter' with something that dramatically transforms 'life'. Here, bricolage-like miscellaneousness takes on a positive meaning. I believe our specialized 15 courses in two departments are well structured to provide such encounters. Fortunately, there are already many researchers and practitioners active in various fields who were together with us for several years. It is my sincere hope that within this graduate school, each of you will be able to find this 'something' that will support himself or herself. I call on all of us to become incomplete bricoleurs with the ambition of undauntingly propelling our Graduate School towards higher heights.



Professor Kiyoshi Umeya
The 8th Dean of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

- (1) Pursuit of cultural research that understands culture as a complex entity and takes intercultural relations as its perspective.
- (2) Dynamic research into culture as a complex entity with attention to intercultural interaction in such forms as conflict, fusion, and interchange.
- (3) Multifaceted studies of cultural transformations amid the globalization of contemporary society.
- (4) Development of advanced communication research related to language and information.
- (5) Execution of a shift from monocular, single paradigms that apply over-simplistic dichotomies such as central / peripheral, civilized / uncivilized, and advanced / backward to pluralistic, multiplex paradigms, and the creation of research methodologies adapted to the cultural dynamics of contemporary society.

Admission Policy, Diploma Policy

	Admission Policy	Diploma Policy
Master's Program	<p>The objective of the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies is to cultivate individuals who have a deep understanding of intercultural phenomena and flexible communication skills, as well as strong scholarship and creative research skills.</p> <p>In view of this educational goal, the Graduate School seeks students who have the following characteristics.</p>	<p>Degree: Master of Arts</p> <p>The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies awards degrees as follows, based on Kobe University Diploma Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are enrolled in a master's program at the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies for a period of two years or more. They must obtain the prescribed credits required to complete the program, receive the required research guidance, and pass final examinations as well as a review of their master's thesis or the results of their specific research task. It may be possible for students with excellent results to complete their studies in a shorter period. • Prior to completing postgraduate study, students are expected to acquire the following skills in addition to the capabilities set out in Kobe University Diploma Policy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in understanding culture as a complex entity and pursuing multifaceted studies that convey the richness of intercultural relations. 	<p>Department of Cultural Interaction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to research relationships between different cultures from multiple angles while understanding that cultures are diverse and mutually affect one another, resulting in cultural transformation. 2. The ability to carry out interdisciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in understanding the dynamics of language and information communication and addressing the various problems that confront contemporary global society. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in carrying out interdisciplinary research with high standards of expertise. 	<p>Department of Culture and Globalization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to tackle various issues that today's global society is facing, with a deep understanding of the dynamics of linguistic communication and information technology. 2. The ability to carry out interdisciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
Doctoral Program	<p>The objective of the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies is to cultivate individuals who have a deep understanding of intercultural phenomena and flexible communication skills, as well as strong scholarship and creative research skills.</p> <p>In view of this educational goal, the Graduate School seeks students who have the following characteristics.</p>	<p>Degree : Doctor of Philosophy</p> <p>The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies awards degrees as follows, based on Kobe University Diploma Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are enrolled in a doctoral program at the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies for a period of three years or more. They must obtain the prescribed credits required to complete the course, receive the required research guidance, and pass final examinations as well as a review of their doctoral thesis. It may be possible for students with excellent research results to complete their studies in a shorter period. • Prior to completing postgraduate study, students are expected to acquire the following skills in addition to the capabilities set out in Kobe University Diploma Policy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in clarifying cultural phenomena, understanding the dynamics of culture as a complex entity, and exploring an advanced field of cultural research. 	<p>Department of Cultural Interaction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to independently explore cutting-edge fields in cultural research, investigating the structure and dynamics of various cultures that are transformed as they mutually affect one another in diverse ways. 2. The ability to carry out cross-disciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in pursuing various language and information communication issues and conducting multifaceted studies focused on the increasingly globalized modern society. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a keen interest in carrying out cross-disciplinary research with superior expertise. 	<p>Department of Culture and Globalization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to research the globalized modern world from multiple angles, addressing various issues in linguistic communication and information technology. 2. The ability to carry out cross-disciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.

Organization of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

15 specialized courses for interacting with society and living in the world

Departments and Divisions

When comparing the nature of cultures in modern society in order to address modern issues such as cultural confrontation and conflicts, it is essential to develop the ability to examine cultural trends in an increasingly globalized world. To do this, we have to examine both the cultures of different regions and cross-cultural interaction.

Accordingly, the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies has two departments – *Cultural Interaction*, for multifaceted commentary on the nature of intercultural interaction based on the results of cultural research in different regions, and *Culture and Globalization* to investigate the contemporary cultural phase generated by globalization.

Consisting of the Area Studies Division for interdisciplinary studies regarding region-specific cultural traits and cultural metamorphosis, and the Intercultural Communication Division for multifaceted research on the reality of cross-cultural contacts, conflicts and interactions, the Cultural-Interaction Department aims for (1) understanding of cultures of different regions, (2) understanding of cross-cultural relations and interactions, and (3)

development of cross-cultural communication abilities.

The Culture and Globalization Department consists of the Contemporary Culture and Society Division for comprehensive research into contemporary social and cultural circumstances amid the erosion of modern Western principles accompanying globalization, the Human Communication and Information Science Division for investigation of issues involving verbal and non-verbal communication and use of diverse information media, and the Second Language Education Division for advanced research concerning second language education and production of outstanding practitioners in this field. In addition, there is also a joint research group for Advanced Communication in the Doctoral Course in cooperation with the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR). With these divisions and courses, we aim to (1) investigate acculturation brought about by globalization and the establishment of new public culture, (2) develop advanced global communication, and (3) research foreign language education for the global era.

Department	Division	Course
Cultural Interaction Multifaceted elucidation of the nature and attributes of intercultural interaction based on the results of cultural research in different regions	Area Studies Interdisciplinary studies regarding region-specific cultural traits and cultural metamorphosis	Japanology
		Asia-Pacific Culture Studies
	Intercultural Communication Diverse exploration of the actual status of intercultural contact, confrontation, and interchange	European and American Culture Studies
		Cultural Anthropology
		Transcultural Studies
		International Relations and Comparative Politics
Culture and Globalization Elucidation of the contemporary cultural phase generated by globalization	Contemporary Culture and Society Comprehensive research into contemporary social and cultural circumstances amid the erosion of modern Western principles accompanying globalization	Modernity Studies
		Contemporary Social Issues
	Human Communication and Information Science Investigation of issues involving verbal and non-verbal communication and use of diverse information media	Art, Culture and Society Studies
		Linguistics and Communication Studies
		Human Communication
	Second Language Education Advanced research concerning second language education and production of outstanding practitioners in this field	Computers and Communication
Systems of Second Language Education		
Joint Research Group (Doctoral Program)	Advanced Communication	

Master's Program – Two Learning Tracks to Meet Your Aspirations

Develops people who can work in an international society and new researchers who can lead the era – Different styles for different goals from start to finish

	Career Enhancement Track	Researcher Track
Entrance Exam (General Admission, Special Selection for Adult Applicants, and Special Selection for Foreign Students)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test of basic subjects You must choose one of the following subjects; a foreign language, classical Japanese literature, computer science, or (for non-Japanese applicants only) Japanese. However, the subjects you can choose from also depend on the course to which you are applying, so make sure to check the application guidebook for further details. 2. Test of major subject 3. Oral examination 	
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars to develop high-level skills in foreign language, information handling and presentation • Students mainly take Special Lectures, which are given to a small group in an interactive manner rather than a one-way lecture. • Students who have earned the required credits and submitted a research report can obtain master's degree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutors provide quality individual guidance (tutorial). • Students mainly take Advanced Expertise Seminars to build basic skills required for a researcher. • Students may take Special Seminars in the doctoral program. • Students shall submit a master's thesis or master's folio (a combination of achievements).
Future career	Students will obtain master's degree and work in international fields as specialists.	The Researcher Track is for students who intend to take the entrance exam to the doctoral program and proceed to the program. Students aim to become researchers or high-level specialists.

Two Educational Tracks

The program has a Career Enhancement Track and a Researcher Track. Students will have the opportunity to select one after enrollment.

Career Enhancement Track

This track caters to students who intend to enter the workforce after completing the master's program. By acquiring broad expertise and practical applied skills, students seek to develop their career to a higher level. Students can earn the master's degree by acquiring the requisite credits in courses centered on special lectures and by submitting a master's research report appropriate for their career design.

Researcher Track

This track caters to students who intend to continue on to enter the doctoral program. The track offers a curriculum designed to develop researchers and high-level specialists. To complete the track, students are required to take requisite credits in courses centered on advanced expertise seminars and to submit a master's thesis or a master's folio.

Academic Skill Seminars

The objective of the seminars is to effectively learn methods and techniques and acquire other academic skills required for research in various fields.

- Computer Skills Development
- Academic Communication (English)
- Academic Writing (English)
- Academic Writing (Japanese)
- Social Research Methods
- Ethnographic Fieldwork
- Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences

Master's Folio

The master's folio is comprised of multiple research products that are loosely tied to a single theme, and which can be submitted in place of a master's thesis. As a master's folio does not have to be in the form of a single thesis, many diverse research products that would previously not have been accepted as a master's thesis – compositions, research reports, – are accepted as part of a folio. This makes it easier to conduct applied research that is relevant to one's work or workplace, and because the work is divided up and presented on numerous occasions, it also allows for systematic writing and research.

Doctoral Program – Developing Independent Researchers

For deeper study in a research field

– flexible support to obtain a PhD in three years

Coursework Program	
Research theme	Theme suited for the research field of the course
Research style	Individual research
Research guidance	The entire teaching staff, especially the advisor, provides support.
Process to obtain PhD	<1st year> Present a concept in a joint seminar of the course, publish an academic article and submit a foundational thesis.
	<2nd year> Publish an academic article, make a presentation at a conference and submit a preparatory doctoral thesis.
	<3rd year> Submit part of a thesis draft to a joint seminar of the course once a month and receive guidance and support from the whole teaching staff. Submit a doctoral thesis.
Expected achievements	Achievements of academic research where free thinking and creativity are required

Career and Professional Development

– Career Paths to the World

Master's Program

Cultural Interaction Department

- As a specialist
 - Specialist at an international organization such as the United Nations or JICA
 - Official of various public and private organizations that plan introductions to Japanese culture and exchanges
 - Cultural planner at a museum
 - Junior/senior high school teacher (English) with a high level of expertise
 - Planner for the cultural exchange programs of a local government unit or company
 - Person in charge of training in a foreign-affiliated company or joint venture
 - Leader of a regional NPO taking the lead in cultural activities and cross-cultural understanding
- As business professional with the ability to take practical actions
 - Employee at a foreign-affiliated company or joint venture
 - Employee at a trading company or other type of company
 - Personnel for overseas expansion of a Japanese company

Culture and Globalization Department

- As a specialist
 - Cultural policy specialist or art manager with knowledge of music, fine arts and other types of arts
 - Journalist or government employee who addresses the various issues of changing modern cultures such as gender and public nature
 - Junior/senior high school teacher (English) with a high level of expertise
 - Employee/teacher at a language education company
 - Editor of language education materials
 - Researcher/specialist/advisor at a foreign student center
 - Japanese language teacher
 - Interpreter/translator
 - Employee of a language/IT corporate laboratory
- As a business professional with an ability to take practical actions
 - Software engineer
 - System engineer

Doctoral Program

Leading researchers who promote

- “international cultural studies” in the world
- Researcher at an international organization/ research institute
 - Researcher at a national/public/corporate laboratory
 - Teacher at a college/junior college/specialized vocational high school

Degrees that can be obtained

- Master's Program
- Master's degree (Master of Arts)
- Doctoral Program
- Doctor's degree (PhD)

Qualifications that can be obtained (Master's Program)

- Junior High School Specialized Teacher's Certificate (English)
- Senior High School Specialized Teacher's Certificate (English)