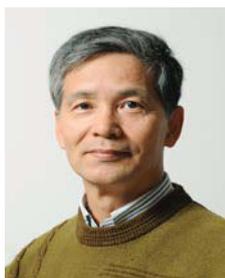


【Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research】

Humanities and Social Sciences



Title of Project : Primate foundation of the social transmission across generation in knowledge and technology

Tetsuro Matsuzawa
(Kyoto University, Primate Research Institute, Professor)

Research Area : Psychology, Experimental Psychology

Keyword : Knowledge, Technology, Mother-infant relationship, Grandmother, Chimpanzee, Cross-generational social propagation

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

The project aims to elucidate the evolutionary foundations of human nature. For that purpose, we will carry out detailed comparisons of humans with both members of the genus *Pan*, chimpanzees and bonobos. The research objectives are unique in the following three ways. First, we will make parallel efforts to study both chimpanzees and bonobos, and to do so both in the laboratory and in the wild. Second, we have a firm foundation in tracking three generations of individuals in each of two communities, KUPRI and Bossou. Third, we will set up a fully automated computer-controlled system in a newly devised “group-booth” in which multiple subjects can perform computer-controlled cognitive tasks based on the 24-hours free access.

【Research Methods】

In addition to the study of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), the present proposal initiates new research on bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) both in the laboratory and in the wild. This represents the first ever attempt to compare chimpanzees and bonobos across the two different research settings, and will provide us with a novel and comprehensive picture of the common ancestor of the genus *Pan*. The 2 by 2 contingency table, we do both lab work and field work in chimps and bonobos. For the study, we have 14 chimps in KUPRI, 53 in KS-WRC of Kyoto University; We will focus on 13 wild chimps in Bossou, Guinea, and 27 bonobos in Wamba, DRC.



Fig 1. A young chimpanzee named Ayumu touches the numerals in an ascending order

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

Chimpanzees live in male-dominated societies, rely relatively heavily on technology, and are hostile to neighboring communities. In contrast, bonobos are female-dominated, have a low reliance on technology, and show little aggression towards neighbors. The present project therefore represents a fundamentally important step in expanding the framework of comparisons through which we can illuminate human nature. Systematic comparisons of the three hominid species (humans, chimpanzees, and bonobos) will shed new light on the evolutionary origins of the human mind, technology, education, culture, mother-infant bond, and society.



Fig 2. A mother-infant pair of wild bonobos. The photo was taken in the Congo Basin.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Matsuzawa, T. *et al.*, eds. (2006) *Cognitive development in chimpanzees*. Springer
Matsuzawa, T. *et al.*, eds (2011) *The chimpanzees of Bossou and Nimba*, Springer

【Term of Project】 FY2012-2016

【Budget Allocation】 310,000 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://www.pri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ai/>
<http://www.greenpassage.org/>

【Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research】**Humanities and Social Sciences**

Title of Project : Japanese Electoral Studies 2012-2016

Yoshiaki Kobayashi
(Yokohama National University, Graduate School of
Urban Innovation, Professor)

Research Area : Political Science

Keyword : Electoral Study, Voting Behavior, Political Attitudes, Power Transition

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Electoral Studies are important node in social sciences not only because those have relevance in the real world by revealing the functions of elections as the core of democracy, but also because those are conducted by various approaches from different disciplines such as political science and sociology.

As such, extensive research has been conducted so far in Japan, and nationwide survey data on the voting behavior of citizens is one of Japan's few social scientific achievements in which researchers and practitioners around the world can be interested.

Especially, achievements from a seven-wave nationwide panel study of the JES II, a nine-wave nationwide panel study of the JES III, and a nine-wave nationwide panel study of the JES IV can be said to have consummated electoral studies in Japan.

Following a good tradition of previous election studies in Japan, the project, joined by three new researchers with new perspectives, aims at collecting nationwide time-series survey data as the JES V (Japanese Electoral Study V).

【Research Methods】

The main method employed in this study is a nationwide panel study using face-to-face interviews for general voters. Randomly selected nationwide respondents will be visited and interviewed by trained interviewers. And, mail surveys will be conducted to ask questions on factors supposed to precede voting at a certain time before an election. This will also help reduce the length of the election-time questionnaire. Moreover, to ensure a multi-method perspective, internet surveys are planned to be conducted. Internet surveys are advantageous in that they not only enable us to conduct various social scientific experiments, but by examining the validity of this technology through comparison of its results with those of more traditional personal interviews and mail surveys, we can also widen the perspective of the study.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

First, this project succeeds a good tradition of previous nationwide panel election studies in Japan, and will maintain the good international reputation of Japanese voting behavior data produced for research communities in Japan and abroad. Through this effort, the study will also help establish a foundation for the study of elections and Japanese politics nationally and internationally.

Second, this project deepens the analyses of wide varieties of research topics included in the study of voting behavior. It is also expected to integrate findings from sub-disciplines within the study of voting behavior, and show a comprehensive sketch of Japanese voting behavior through meaningful research collaboration.

Third, this project reveals how Japanese voting behavior has been altered in accordance with social and political changes in a medium span, and shows what Japanese democracy is heading toward, influenced by path dependency.

Fourth, this project locates electoral studies in a broader context of the study of political processes by considering voting behavior not only as a dependent variable but also as an independent variable.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

- Yoshiaki Kobayashi, *Malfunctioning Democracy in Japan-Quantitative Analysis in a Civil Society*, Lexington Books, 2011.
- Masaki Taniguchi, "The Electoral Consequences of Candidate Appearances on Soft News Programs," *Political Communication*, Vol.28, No.1, pp.67-86, 2011.

【Term of Project】 FY2012-2016

【Budget Allocation】 115,000 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://www.res.kutc.kansai-u.ac.jp/JES/>

【Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research】

Humanities and Social Sciences



Title of Project : Dynamism of economic disparities: Panel analysis of employment, education, health and redistribution policy

Yoshio Higuchi

(Keio University, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Professor)

Research Area : Social Science, Economics

Keyword : Economics, Applied microeconomics, Economic disparities, Employment, Panel data

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Given Japan's rapidly aging society and low birth rate, Japan provides a unique case to study the relationship between disparities and changes in population trends, and thus obtain valuable academic knowledge that would be difficult to obtain in other countries. By uncovering the behavioral principles of workers and the firms employing them, it is expected that the mechanisms leading to various economic and health disparities will become clearer. Following children over a longer period of time in the children's survey is expected to help in uncovering the connections between disparities across households, disparities in economic ability, and disparities in adult life. By examining the real estate asset formation of households that were and were not affected by the Tohoku Earthquake over an extended period of time, it should be possible to uncover some of the long-term impacts, of this natural disaster. The use of a long panel data set will help uncover the relationship between movements in income and assets, changes in income and household composition, and assets. Panel data will enable us to predict the impact of the expected tax reform package that will be part of the government's integrated reform package of the social security and tax system.

【Research Methods】

This research project will use panel data collected every year on households and firms to undertake multifaceted research on economic disparities. From a dynamic perspective, it will focus on the relationships generating economic disparities, the effect disparities on economic agents and markets, and the relationship between economic disparities and redistribution policy. There are two key, but closely inter-related parts of this project. The first part is the design, analysis and public release of a large scale-panel data set. The panel data set will build on the knowledge and samples that have been obtained through the KHPS and JHPS data sets that the applicants have been closely involved in to date. The second part is multifaceted and dynamic

research on economic disparities from fields apart from applied micro-economics that will make extensive use of the panel data set. There are five major areas of this research: (1) Labor Economics Group; (2) Economics of Education Group; (3) Asset Stock Group; (4) Social Security Group, (5) Public Finance Group.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

By analyzing the panel data, the Labor Economics Group will uncover the emergence, the transformation and the effect of economic disparities in relation to employment status, wages, the length of employment, education and training, and health. The Economic of Education Group will analyze the children's employment, education and income outcomes in later life, to clarify the relationships between family disparities, ability disparities, and disparities in adult life. The Asset Stock Group will undertake a dynamic analysis of household real estate asset formation and the real estate holding behavior, to verify whether an asset disparity has actually occurred and will investigate the factors leading to an asset disparity. The Social Security Group will conduct research on poverty and disparities from a new approach of disparities of social resources and disparities in life opportunities. The Public Finance Group will verify the economic effects of the current tax system, the social security system, and expenditure on public works.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Yano, Makoto ed. *The Japanese Economy*, Keio University Press, 2008.

Katz, Lawrence and David Autor, "Changes in the wage structure and earnings inequality," *Handbook of Labor Economics*, pp. 1463-1555, 1999

【Term of Project】 FY2012-2016

【Budget Allocation】 236,500 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address】

<http://www.pdrc.keio.ac.jp/en/>