Title of Project: Construction of a New Knowledge Base for Buddhist Studies: Presentation of an Advanced Model for the Next Generation of Humanities Research

Masahiro Shimoda
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Research Project Number: 15H05725 Researcher Number: 50272448
Research Area: Buddhist Studies, Digital Humanities
Keyword: TEI Guidelines, Asian Classics Research, Digital Humanities

[Purpose and Background of the Research]
The fields of Digital Humanities (DH) have been making surprising progress for the past twenty years in North America and Europe as a new approach that is opening the way for the endangered humanities. The deepening of DH in Japan will be an important key for Japan to serve as a bridge in Asia between the research on Eastern and Western cultures, since Japan will serve as a central nexus for research on Asia. This project builds upon the results of a previous Grant-in-aid (Level A, 2010-2013), wherein multiple large-scale international projects were brought together to build a “knowledge-base” called "Research Base for Indian and Buddhist Studies" SAT-RBIB. This SAT-RBIB will be expanded and enhanced in a new international project that will create an advanced network for scientific research. At the same time, we will critically apply the text-structuring methodology developed in the West—the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) to our text corpora, constructing a methodologically refined database called Next-RBIB. Next-RBIB, which will serve as a knowledge-base for Buddhist studies, will serve as an example to show the scope of the potential of the humanities in Japan to diversify and include the viewpoints and methodologies of the West.

[Research Methods]
In this research project, we will integrate the distinctive research approaches of various fields and re-present the full results of this integration in a comprehensive manner in the digital medium. The research will be carried out distributed among four teams: the general research group, the methodology research group, the international alliance group, and the digital methodology research group. In this process, we will link the leading international scholars from both the traditional Asian humanities studies and DH, building a sustainable scientific network.

[Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance]
The core thrust of this research will be to apply the mainstream methodological approach used on digital texts in the West—the TEI. Starting with Buddhist studies and then dealing with other Asian classics, we will uncover traditional humanities knowledge and share this in an interdisciplinary manner by: (1) clarifying the degree of shareability between the research methods of Buddhist studies and related areas of research; (2) testing the applicability or non-applicability to Asian materials of the TEI guidelines; (3) developing a long-term policy to make proposals for encoding characters in the Unicode UCS international character standard; (4) collaborating simultaneously with advanced DH projects in many parts of the world. As a result of the completion of the above four objectives, we will provide an open access universal service for information technology and research methodology. Thus, we can present the new academic knowledge base "Next-RBIB," wherein the original positive connotations of “globalization” can be restored from the standpoint of Humanities. Furthermore, the situation of scholarly research that has been substantially affected by the de facto world standard of the English-speaking realm can be put into a better balance, including the perspective of both Eastern and Western approaches, thus realizing a more realistic world standard. The present study, through the process of the construction of an internationally networked Buddhist Studies knowledge base, aims to offer, with Japan as leader, of a model for the renewal and internationalization of the humanities academic environment.

[Publications Relevant to the Project]

[Term of Project] FY2015-2018

[Budget Allocation] 47,600 Thousand Yen

[Homepage Address and Other Contact Information] http://21dzk.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/SAT/
Title of Project : Employment Sustainability and the Shifting Paradigm of Labor Law

Hajime Wada
(Nagoya University, Graduate School of Law, Professor)

Research Project Number : 15H05726  Researcher Number : 30158703
Research Area : Social science, Law, Social Law
Keyword : Sustainability, Employment System, Paradigm Shift of Labor Law, Comparative Study of Law

【Purpose and Background of the Research】
The corrosion of the employment system constitutes a phenomenon common to industrialized countries, albeit manifest in various shapes and degrees. International organizations and national Governments have conducted miscellaneous experiments aimed at remedying the situation. However, in Japan there is apprehension that weakening of the system has become increasingly acute. This research views contemporary characteristics, such as the bipolarization of employment, growing stratum of working-poor, work-life imbalance, and exploitative companies as a “crisis of sustainability”. And, in order to secure and maintain a system of sustainable employment, it aims to explore the possibility of a “new paradigm of labor law”, which is aligned to the ideas incorporated in the ILO’s “decent work agenda”, “quality job creation”, “formation of a broad middle class” as set forth in the Group of Twenty (G20) Communiqué, and the “formation of a broad middle class”, as advocated for in a MHLW report.

【Research Methods】
It is imperative, first of all, to accurately analyze the current state of employment. Although scholars of labor law and labor-management relations are largely in unison in perceiving the contemporary employment system to be deteriorating, differences exist in the extent to which this weakening is viewed as a serious issue. The focus of this research comprises a critical analysis the employment policy that is advancing under Abenomics.

Next, in order to prescribe a remedy, it is necessary to identify the root of the corrosion. This research group perceives the leading cause to be the employment policy effective since the 1980s, particularly, since the 1990s. During this time, a critical examination of traditional labor law theory evolved into a discourse on the formation of a new paradigm, which in the process chipped away at the traditional foundations. The essence of this research, that is the exploration of a new paradigm of labour law, has its basis in the aforementioned development.

Accordingly, this research proposes a regulatory model for a new system of employment, presented in terms of a “standard labor-management relations model”. This model, which targets not only employment, but also encompasses workers’ livelihood security, including social security, will serve as the as the premise for a legislative proposal.

The labor law theory study group established in 2008 to conduct the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) shall continue to coordinate this project. Comparative legal research shall focus on Europe (particularly Germany) and the Republic of Korea, with the addition of Taiwan. The former provides a basis from which to research the Social European Model, and the latter offers insights into the construction of an East Asian Model.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】
This research project undertakes to propose the reconstruction of labor law in a way befitting the key concepts of “decent work agenda”, “quality job creation”, “formation of a broad middle class”, as charted by the ILO and in other international reports. Its significance lies therein. Research results will, 1) reveal the potential shape of “sustainable employment”, 2) establish models for the minimum wage system, employment diversity, new forms of social inclusion, and the social security system, 3) set forth prohibition of discrimination rules for equality in employment, 4) educe a Japan-style model for the equal pay for equal work principle, 5) offer an opinion on the relation between employment and the safety net, and 6) propose policy for legislation.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】
・Waltermann, Raimund (2010). The Demise of Normal Labor-Management Relations? <in German>
・Wada, Hajime, Shigeru Wakita, and Masahiro Yano (eds.) (2013). Worker Dispatch and Law <in Japanese>

【Term of Project】 FY2015-2019
【Budget Allocation】 76,000 Thousand Yen
【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】
http://slrp.law.nagoya-u.ac.jp/
Title of Project: An Analytical and Practical Approach to Universal and International Access to Policy Information

Mikitaka Masuyama
(National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, School of Policy Studies, Professor)

Research Project Number: 15H05727  Researcher Number: 50317616
Research Area: Political Science
Keyword: Public Policy, Policy Information

Purpose and Background of the Research
We have been recently witnessing the steady increase of the government’s public information supply for citizens, as well as their success in launching electronic government projects. Yet has such improvement in public information actually affected the ways in which we make policy decisions, and, if positive, in what way? By focusing on these questions, we examine the existing use of public information, and seek innovative ways to provide policy information with the help of the latest digital technology.

Research Methods
We have initiated data collection projects that have resulted in the development of a database on administrative information disclosure requests to the prefectural and municipal offices, and the launch of an internet video retrieval system for Diet deliberations in which one can pinpoint and play the parliamentary video clips corresponding to the minutes of proceedings through a keyword search. In this study, we continue to work on these database systems and attempt to achieve the following goals:
1. Improving the data-input system for the database of information disclosure so that the database can be more directly amenable to the staffs in charge at the local offices.
2. Applying the sound recognition techniques to match up video and text information to the meetings in local assemblies as well as other types of videos like TV news clips.
3. Operating a portal site that allows English keyword search, so that one can directly access to policy information without having trouble typing Japanese.

Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance
We seek innovative ways to provide universal access to policy information. For example, we have launched an internet video retrieval system for the Japanese Diet. By using the latest sound recognition techniques to create timestamp data to match up parliamentary video feeds and the minutes of proceedings, our system makes it possible for one to retrieve the video clips corresponding to the minutes of the proceedings through a keyword search. The Japanese Diet is the first case in the world to introduce the sound recognition techniques in making the official minutes of parliamentary proceedings, and thus our system leads the world in applying the same sound recognition techniques to make the content of parliamentary videos searchable by keywords.

Publications Relevant to the Project

Term of Project: FY2015-2019
Budget Allocation: 139,900 Thousand Yen

Homepage Address and Other Contact Information
http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~clip/
http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/video/
http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/disclosure/
Title of Project: Behavioral-Economic Analysis of Long-Run Stagnation

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(Osaka University, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Professor)

Research Project Number: 15H05728 Researcher Number: 70130763
Research Area: Social Sciences, Economics, Theoretical Economics
Keyword: Macroeconomics, Behavioral Economics

[Purpose and Background of the Research]

The Japanese economy enjoyed high growth until the early 1990s, but thereafter has fallen into secular stagnation for two decades (Figure 1). The USA and the EU have also faced similar situations. Traditional theories regard them as temporary phenomena, and economic policies based on them had little effect. For example, monetary expansions were previously effective but now are not. A theory of secular stagnation is urgently required.

Figure 1  GDP and CPI

We introduce various aspects of human behavior into a dynamic setting and give a new theory of secular stagnation. The validity of such human behavior is examined using econometric methods and economic experiments. Economic policies and institutional reforms required in secular stagnation are also examined.

[Research Methods]

We conduct questionnaire survey and construct longitudinal panel data to detect people’s preferences for liquidity and financial assets, relative preferences for wealth over consumption, hyperbolic time discounting, etc.

By incorporating those insights into a dynamic framework, we then examine the mechanism of secular stagnation. The effects of various policies are also theoretically analyzed.

In secular stagnation an economy suffers from underutilization of economic resources. To find a way to utilize them, we apply the analytical tools from mechanism design theory, public economics and industrial organization. For example, we characterize the optimal algorithm that is applicable to a range of issues, such as housing, urbanization, energy, and medical, that are inherent to matured societies.

[Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance]

Traditional theories suggest monetary and fiscal policies to recover full employment in the short run and emphasize the importance of efficiency-enhancing policies. However, during the stagnation phase they have had very little impact. These experiences suggest that not the conventional policy set but a new policy set is required to deal with the situation. This project is expected to identify the cause of Japan’s stagnation and provide potential remedies for it, which fundamentally differ from the ones suggested by traditional theories.

While we focus on the Japanese stagnation, it also gives some relevance and crucial insight for other developed countries. Some emerging ones, such as China and Korea, also seem to have started experiencing similar problems. This project will provide a useful prescription for stagnation of those countries as well.

[Publications Relevant to the Project]


[Term of Project] FY2015-2019

[Budget Allocation] 153,600 Thousand Yen

[Homepage Address and Other Contact Information]

http://www.iser.osaka-u.ac.jp/S-Theory/index-e.html, e-mail: ono@iser.osaka-u.ac.jp
 Title of Project: Risk Management of Comprehensive Monetary/Fiscal Policy: Theory, Empirics, and Simulations

Takashi Kamihigashi  
(Kobe University, Research Institute for Economics and Business Administration, Professor)

Research Project Number: 15H05729  
Researcher Number: 30324908  
Research Area: Economics  
Keyword: Economic Policy

### [Purpose and Background of the Research]
For more than a decade, government debt in Japan has been expanding, and the possibility of a government debt crisis has been an issue of serious debate. Currently, the Bank of Japan is conducting extensive quantitative and qualitative easing, but history suggests that excessively expansionary monetary policy often gives rise to asset bubbles, and the collapse of a bubble often triggers a financial crisis, which can eventually lead to a government debt crisis.

The purpose of this project is to develop systematic methods to do the following:

1. Estimate the risks of bubble collapses, financial crises, and government debt crises in advance
2. Derive a comprehensive and optimal monetary/fiscal policy mix that properly reacts to these risks
3. Control the damage caused by a financial or government debt crisis based on multi-layer financial network models

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#### [Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance]

The expected research achievements are systematic methods to accomplish the three objectives listed above at the level of basic research. Such methods are significant in view of the economic situations faced by Japan and the world.

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#### [Publications Relevant to the Project]


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#### [Term of Project]
FY2015-2019

#### [Budget Allocation]
141,400 Thousand Yen

#### [Homepage Address and Other Contact Information]

http://www.rieb.kobe-u.ac.jp/project/risk/index.html
Title of Project: Mutual Construction of Neuro-Psychological and Socio-Institutional Foundations of Prosocial Behavior

Toshio Yamagishi
(Hitotsubashi University, Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy, Adjunct Professor)

Research Project Number: 15H05730   Researcher Number: 80158089
Research Area: Social Science
Keyword: Prosocial behavior, Altruism, Evolution, Economic game, Brain

Purpose and Background of the Research

The purpose of this research project is, first, to analyze the complementary relationships between neuro-psychological foundations of uniquely human pro-sociality (cooperativeness, empathy, reciprocity, etc.) and the socio-institutional niches in which human pro-sociality has evolved, and second, to specify both the psychological and the institutional conditions for the transition of the Japanese society toward a more open and trust-based society from an assurance-based society. This analysis will be conducted with a special emphasis on the role of social niche construction—a process through which behavioral patterns among individuals who face the same social environment become an institution providing individuals incentives to behave in specific ways, and to develop psychological traits that facilitate behaving in such ways. We will conduct experimental and survey studies on each of the following topics.

1) The relationship between default and heuristic cooperation, on the one hand, and the deliberate and strategic cooperation, on the other. Specifically, we will test the hypothesis that heuristic-based cooperation will prevail in societies characterized with the bonding-type social capital consisting of strong ties, whereas more deliberate and strategic cooperation will prevail in societies characterized with the bridging-type social capital consisting of weak ties backed up by the established rule of law.

2) Socio-institutional bases of cultural differences in the human mind. One of the challenges that the Japanese society currently faces is how to transform the security-seeking and defensive mentality of (particularly) the youth to a more opportunity-seeking and promotive mentality. We will analyze the aspects of socio-institutional foundations that give rise to the security-seeking mentality, and will propose possible policy measures that help transform it to a more promotive and self-expressive one.

3) The relationship between gene polymorphism related to neuro-transmitter receptors with known cultural differences and prosocial behaviors exhibited in economic games will be examined.

Research Methods

We ask the participants in our previous study (Neuro-Psychological and Socio-Institutional Foundations of Pro-Sociality: Scientific Research (S), FY2011-2015) to continue participating in the current study. We have already accumulated behavioral data from over a dozen economic games, together with participants’ demographic traits, personality traits, beliefs, attitudes, values, IQ, their brain structural and genomic data. We select participants from this data set based on their previous behavior and other traits, and ask them to perform cognitive and game tasks in the fMRI machine. Another line of large-scale experiments will study the genesis of institution-specific behavioral and psychological traits.

Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance

This study will prove to be a model case for inter-disciplinary collaboration under the initiative of social scientists, where social scientists play more than supplementary roles. The study findings will provide an overarching framework, the social niche construction framework, to integrate findings in cultural psychology and evolutionary studies of human pro-sociality.

Publications Relevant to the Project

- Yamagishi, T., Horita, Y., et al. (2012). Rejection of unfair offers in the ultimatum game is no evidence of strong reciprocity. PNAS USA, 109, 20364-20368.

Term of Project: FY2015-2019

Budget Allocation: 153,500 Thousand Yen

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