



Title of Project : Construction of the Face-Body studies in transcultural conditions

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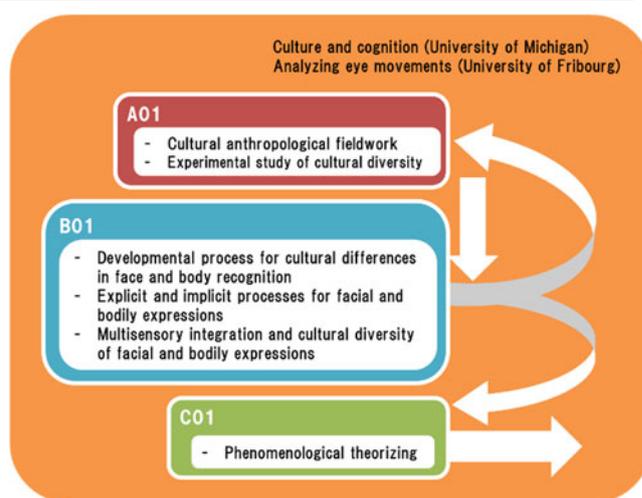
【Purpose of the Research Project】

Facial and bodily expressions are mediums through which nothing can be hidden; they conspicuously reveal individual histories and allow a person to be read by others. In the current atmosphere of growing globalization, this project aims to bring awareness regarding the unconscious facial and bodily expressions and cultural differences in such expressions. Using psychological, anthropological, and philosophical perspectives, this research aims to reveal differences in facial and bodily expressions across diverse cultures, and to explore the possibilities for developing a cultural understanding through faces and bodies of members.

This study aims to promote the understanding of other people and cultures by bringing unconscious facial and bodily expressions to conscious awareness. Various cultural differences have been explained through such as eye tracking data. By bringing primitive, unconscious facial and bodily expressions to conscious awareness, this study aims to promote the understanding of the communication of various cultures, and the acceptance of heterogeneous people. Considering the cultural and individual variations, our Japanese research group in the East Asian try to clarify the cultural commonalities and differences in Face and Body.

【Content of the Research Project】

This study aims to use an anthropological (A01) and experimental psychological approach (B01). Studies on implicit and explicit learning process of faces and their development process in cognitive science (behavioral experiments, eye tracking data and physiological responses), and functional brain imaging will be used to investigate the neural bases of these processes. Large-scale data collection will also be conducted to investigate the diversification of facial recognition and bodily expression capacities and strategies (A01 and B01). For A01, research will be conducted using a portable experimental system for cultural anthropological fieldwork. For the comparative phenomenological research on facial and bodily expression (C01), historical and cultural analyses will be used to interpret the use of cosmetics and other behaviors related to facial and bodily expressions.



【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

This project aims to offer a vision of true cultural exchange, adding a philosophical perspective regarding facial expressions and dresses to empirical approaches such as psychology and anthropology. An investigation of the problem of understanding other people and cultures through facial expressions will make substantial contributions to the society. The social meanings of use of cosmetics, dresses, veils, scarves, and masks will also be considered. The research thus aims to contribute broadly to our knowledge about the facial expressions and culture. Based on psychology, anthropology, and philosophy, this research offers a new standpoint from which to understand cultural differences in “facial and bodily expressions” by integrating a variety of frameworks from the fields of humanities and social sciences.

【Key Words】 face, body, transculture

【Term of Project】 FY2017-2021

【Budget Allocation】 573,300 Thousand Yen

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Title of Project : Creation of the Study of Reconciliation

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Research Project Number : 17H06334 Researcher Number : 60308244

【Purpose of the Research Project】

The aim of this research project is to establish reconciliation studies by applying the studies of conflict resolution and transitional justice to East Asia where nationalism is intertwined with conflicts over history. The final aim is to construct a new field of studies that analyze and present social and political conditions for people to become capable of "imagining" reconciliation among nations in each history, just as the nation itself has been imagined.

For this project five research planning groups will undertake empirical and theoretical analysis; focus on multi-layered transnational relationships, shared cultures, and values forged by diverse domestic actors, such as governments, intellectuals, common citizens, and mass media; and clarify the historical origin and structural changes surrounding reconciliation issues. We also seek to build intellectual infrastructure necessary for inter-regional cultural and educational policy of reconciliation toward a shared sense of East Asian regionalism among nations.

【Content of the Research Project】

The four groups focus on each of the actors who plays a part in supporting national emotion in East Asia. Politics/diplomacy group and citizens' movement group deal with empirical research related to the official reconciliation framework. The former interrogates the lost possibilities of reconciliation in the diplomatic process of normalization, while the latter studies how the criticism from liberal citizens was expressed and their political movements had convened a search for an ideal reconciliation that meets the criteria of justice.

The historians' network group and reconciliation culture/media group would focus on representation of memories and discourse. These two groups deal with new, unsuccessful post-Cold-War efforts that responded to democratization and globalization in East Asia after the 1990s. The former studies a series of nationally joint historical research projects legitimated between Japanese and Asian governments, and the latter analyzes the rise and decline of collaborative production of films and TV dramas in which national emotions are jointly, even in separate scenes, expressed and represented.

Connecting such levels of practice and representation, the philosophy/theory group will study the way "justice" has become integrated into various national sentiments, elucidating the East Asian historical and cultural characteristics of understanding justice in the history.

The research management group will disseminate the research achievements and build a robust international cooperation network of reconciliation studies.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

This project eventually contributes to construct the intellectual infrastructure that is necessary for people to become capable of imagining reconciliation. We want to theoretically investigate the social conditions of reconciliation and normative values that enable them, deepening them through empirical case studies. The empirical case studies will be published as an online Historical Dictionary of Global Conflicts (working title). Also, an English-language Reconciliation Studies series and an accessible, practical Japanese textbook of Reconciliation Studies would be planned.

A robust both domestic and international network for the creation of reconciliation studies is needed to for the global dissemination of our research. Thus, a research facility is being created within Waseda University, and "reconciliation studies major" will be established as a sub-major at the Waseda University Graduate School, along with new faculty appointments and enhanced program for graduate education. We also want to take reconciliation studies into the practical arena, engaging students in the Campus Asia Program with the creation of reconciliation.

By forming an academic organization, we will cultivate and establish reconciliation studies as a unified interdisciplinary academic field that goes beyond a narrow research area divided into various academic ones.

The primary academic achievement expected from our research project is the global dissemination of this East Asia-based new studies. With the rise of nationalism in the global age and attendant international tensions, such a field would be regarded as a crucial study. Our project will then contribute to spreading this developed form of reconciliation studies to the West.

【Key Words】

reconciliation, conflict resolution, historical consciousness, memory, reconciliation culture, East Asia, transitional justice theory, Cold War, universal values, justice, history issues

【Term of Project】 FY2017-2021

【Budget Allocation】 243,100 Thousand Yen

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