

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social sciences)



Title of the Project : Comparative research project on values, trust, participation and democracy in Japan

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Research Area : Social Psychology

Keyword : Political/ social participation, Social capital, Social network, Comparative Study

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Recent developments in social science surveys have been considerable, both in surveys that cover countries throughout the world and in those that focus on Asian countries. These include surveys on human values, democratization, social and political participation, and social capital. These surveys attempt to elucidate how social and political institutions and cultures affect people's social perceptions, values, opinions and behavior.

With this background, the current project has two major objectives. The first is to conduct three major comparative surveys as a single panel survey (in which the same respondents are repeatedly interviewed), using face-to-face interviews. This will enable analysis of the interconnectedness of a wide variety of subjects contained in three surveys, the WVS (World Values Survey), the ABS (Asian Barometer Survey), and the CSES (Comparative Study of Electoral Systems).

The second objective is to strengthen the above surveys, by adding a social network survey to the panel. The panel will be one wave per year for four years, and covers Japanese values, lifestyles, social/institutional trust, social networks, social/political participation, and attitudes toward democracy.

【Research Methods】

The project spans five years. During the first year, an experimental internet survey will test and evaluate various measurements, scales and new ideas for the next four surveys. From the second year, we will begin the national face-to-face surveys and conduct one each year as follows:

- 2010: WVS wave 6
- 2011: ABS wave 3
- 2012: Social network survey
- 2013: CSES wave 4

In addition to these surveys, we will prepare macro datasets for ABS and CSES, both of which need macro institutional information for the comparative analyses on the participant

countries.

We will also actively participate in the international planning committees of those projects in order to contribute to each project.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

International comparisons based on national surveys have enormous potential to elucidate the institutional and cultural constraints behind beliefs, attitudes and the behavior of the citizens, as well as to investigate both the consistencies and differences in the rules and principles. The three surveys, the WVS, ABS, and CSES, are well-known comparative surveys and enhance this potential.

The current project will greatly enhance these comparative datasets in at least two ways. The first is because the Japanese data occupy an unusual position in these comparisons as Japan is the sole non-Western country which has more than 60 years of democratic experience after WWII. This makes Japanese data the best hypothesis testing field for Western-born social science theories, i.e., if a given test holds, the theory will enjoy greater generalizability; if the test fails, we need to incorporate cultural/institutional aspects into the theory. Secondly, as a panel study, our project will yield a variety of insights which until now have been impossible, by enabling crossover analyses across the different comparative datasets, as it is a panel survey.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Ikeda, Ken'ichi & Kohno, Masaru (2008) Japanese Attitudes & Values toward Democracy. (In) Y.-H. Chu, L. Diamond, A.J. Nathan, and D.C. Shin (Eds.) *How East Asians View Democracy*, Columbia Univ. Press, Pp.188-219.

Ikeda, Ken'ichi, Kobayashi, Tetsuro, & Hoshimoto, Maasa (2008) Does political participation make a difference? *Electoral Studies*, 27, 77-88.

【Term of Project】 FY2009-2013

【Budget Allocation】 96,200 Thousand Yen

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