

**Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge
Humanities and Social Sciences Research**
(Global Initiatives)

Progress Report
(Summary of Final Report)

International Comparison on Neighborhood Effects of Urban
Fragmentation and Social Ties in Globalization

Core-Researcher: Eiji KAWANO

Institution: University Public Corporation Osaka (Osaka City University)

Academic Unit: Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences

Position: Professor

Research Period: 2019 – 2021

1. Basic information of research project

Research Area	Conducting research on societal analyses conducted within the context of a globalized world	
Project Title	International Comparison on Neighborhood Effects of Urban Fragmentation and Social Ties in Globalization	
Institution	University Public Corporation Osaka (Osaka City University)	
Core-Researcher (Name, Academic Unit & Position)	Eiji KAWANO, Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences	
Project Period	2019 - 2021	
Appropriations Plan (¥)	2019	JPY 4,407,000
	2020	JPY 10,387,000
	2021	JPY 10,231,000

2. Purpose of research

The purpose of this research is to conduct an urban social survey as part of the "Osaka Neighborhood Effects Research (ONER) Project," which conducts research on the issue of "neighborhood effects" regarding segregation, a specific form of social division in large cities, and social ties among residents, while considering institutional factors such as urban and housing policies. The Osaka Neighborhood Effects Research (ONER) Project, which conducts urban social surveys and exchanges with research groups conducting neighborhood effects research projects overseas, aims to form an international hub and realize joint research.

The "social division in a globalized world" is thought to manifest itself specifically in cities and regions. In fact, social inequalities may materialize as urban segregation, weakening community and solidarity among local residents and increasing hostility among them. Such disparities and segregation occur in large cities overseas as well, but the degree and form of such inequalities and segregation vary depending on the policies and institutions in each country. This should be taken into account when examining the "neighborhood effect," the main theme of this study, i.e., the influence of neighborhood on individual health, educational achievement, and social consciousness. Therefore, it is necessary to compare the situation in globalizing foreign metropolises, taking into account policy and institutional aspects, and to this end, it is essential to collaborate with neighborhood effect research projects in different regimes, such as the United States, France, and the Netherlands, and to conduct joint research. Therefore, we will conduct social surveys, especially in urban areas, with a view to international comparisons, and conduct international joint research on the analysis of the actual situation of segregation and neighborhood effects, and disseminate our research both domestically and internationally.

3. Outline of research (Including study member)

Outline of research

This research is part of the Osaka Neighborhood Effects Research Project (ONER), which conducts

1) a macro analysis of the relationship between urban aggregation and urban and housing policies, 2) a survey of the Osaka metropolitan area and analysis of neighborhood effects, and 3) a survey of local community organizations. As part of the Osaka Neighborhood Effects Research Project (ONER), we will build networks and conduct joint research with researchers conducting neighborhood effects projects overseas, and disseminate our research both domestically and internationally.

As shown in the Institutional Neighborhood Effects Model in Figure 1, this study will analyze changes at the "I macro level," taking into account that institutional aspects such as urban and housing policies differ from country to country and city to city. At the "II meso (neighborhood) level," there is a relationship between district characteristics, district crime rates, and unemployment rates. The "III individual level" examines the impact of individual attributes on social outcomes (health, social life, employment, and educational attainment). The relationship from "II Meso (neighborhood) level" to "III Individual level" includes (i) "contextual effects," in which residential characteristics affect individual social outcomes, and (ii) "emergent effects," in which the consequences of individual actions affect the macro structure. This study will focus on international comparisons of urban and housing policies, especially at the "I. Macro level," using research results and data from research partner countries, and will build networks with overseas partners. Furthermore, we will conduct a fact-finding survey in the Osaka metropolitan area under a design that enables international comparisons with other countries. We will then compare and contrast the similarities and differences in the situation in each country in the study of neighborhood effects.

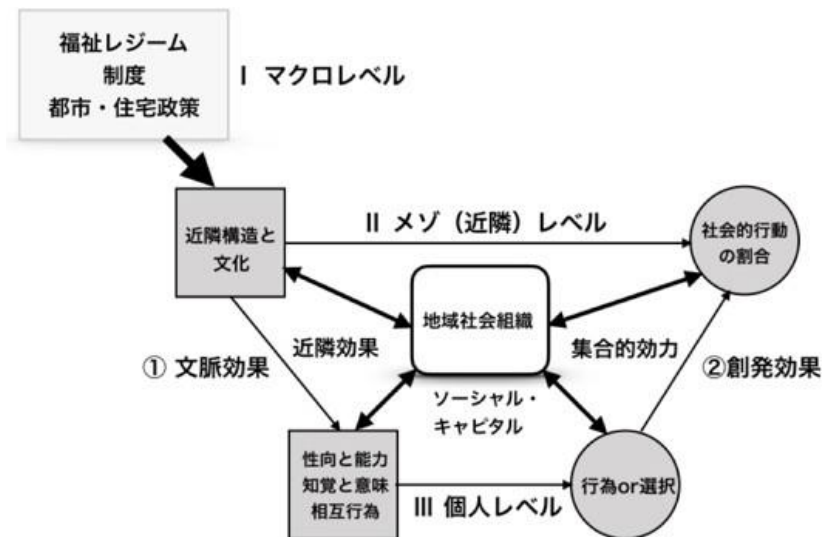


図1 制度的近隣効果の概念モデル

International Networking and Cooperation with Other Countries

Counterparts in France, the Netherlands, and the United States have their own research projects, and this project is designed to be able to collaborate with each of these projects. This project is designed to link with each of these projects. In order to promote exchanges based on research conducted by overseas researchers in their respective fields, this project will conduct webinars and other research

exchanges with partners to promote international comparative research with a regional context. We will also examine the comparability of statistical and survey data and indicators from each country, and establish a common policy for future surveys and joint research. In conjunction with this, we will hold international webinars on neighborhood effect research with overseas collaborators to exchange opinions and develop a foundation for overseas dissemination of research results. In addition, based on joint research with overseas researchers, we will hold a symposium on neighborhood effect research at the Japanese Urban Sociological Association and present research reports.

Plan for Japanese researchers (especially young researchers) to collaborate in overseas research environments

Japanese researchers will collaborate with their counterparts' local research projects, compare and contrast Japanese survey data with overseas survey data, and participate in plans for future joint research. Young researchers in particular will be involved in the project as researchers or research assistants, and will participate in overseas webinars and academic conferences, making presentations in foreign languages and promoting networking with overseas counterparts, thereby laying the groundwork for future overseas outreach.

Study member

Eiji Kawano: Professor, Graduate School of Letters and Human Sciences, Osaka City University

Hiroyuki Fukuhara: Research Fellow, Institute for Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Studies

Yoshimasa Nishida: Professor, Osaka Prefecture University, Faculty of Modern System Studies

Shingo Tsumaki: Associate Professor, Faculty of Business Administration, Ryukoku University

Sho Fujiwara: Associate Professor, Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo

Wakaba Fukushima: Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka City University

Yusuke Kida: Associate Professor, Sugiyama Jogakuen University, Faculty of Culture and Information Studies

Akane Murakami: Associate Professor, Faculty of Sociology, Momoyama Gakuin University

Toshio Mizuuchi: Professor, Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University

Yusuke Kakita: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Life Science, Osaka City University

Hsiao Chengwei: Associate Professor, Osaka City University, Graduate School of Engineering

Hideaki Sasajima: Associate Professor, Osaka City University, Graduate School of Letters and Human Sciences

Masaya Uesugi: Associate Professor, Fukuoka Institute of Technology, Faculty of Social Environment

4. Research results and outcomes produced

The purpose of this study is to form an international network for "neighborhood effects" research in urban sociology by (1) conducting urban social surveys as part of the "Osaka Neighborhood Effects Research (ONER) Project" and (2) interacting with research groups conducting neighborhood effects research projects overseas, in order to form an international hub for joint research. (2) to form an

international hub and conduct joint research through exchanges with research groups conducting neighborhood effects research projects overseas.

The formation of such a network will play an important role in internationalizing the academic level of neighborhood effect research in Japan. Making such a network visible within Japan will also have the effect of raising the level of discussion within the country.

For this reason, the Planning Committee of the Japanese Urban Sociology Association proposed an international symposium on "Neighborhood Effects" and planned to hold it at the 2021 conference. Prior to the symposium, it was planned to discuss the results of past Japanese research as a thematic subcommittee at the 2020 conference as a means of disseminating neighborhood effect research in Japan. However, Covid-19 spread rapidly internationally from March 2020, immediately after the start of this grant project, and it became impossible to foresee the holding of international seminars and symposiums. In addition, the Urban Sociological Association also decided to hold its conference online, and the theme subcommittee for the 2020 conference was canceled. The international symposium in 2021 was rescheduled to carry over the previous year's theme subcommittee and discuss research in Japan. This made it difficult to hold international seminars and symposia, which had been an important objective of the program.

From 2021, even under the confusion caused by the Corona disaster, online conferencing systems became widespread, and it became possible to hold conferences, so we were able to hold an international seminar online on June 15, 2021, by Professor Paugam and on June 28, 2021, by Professor van Ham. Both seminars were well attended. We were also able to hold a symposium on "Japanese Cities and Neighborhood Effects" at the Japanese Urban Sociology Association convention on September 12, 2021. In this regard, we believe that we were able to disseminate and form a foundation for neighborhood effect research in Japan, which is the objective of this project.

In terms of international dissemination, it is regrettable that we were not able to produce enough results to be noticed due to difficulties in presenting at conferences outside Japan. On the other hand, it is noteworthy that a jointly authored paper by Associate Professor Masaya Uesugi and an overseas partner was published in *Nature human behavior*. This is rare in the field of humanities and social sciences, and we consider it an epoch-making achievement. Similarly, Associate Professor Xiao Chengwei published an article in *Urban Geography*, an internationally acclaimed journal in the field of urban geography, in 2021. In addition, the publication of Associate Professor Sasajima's article in *Poetics* in 2022 is also a landmark in the field of sociology and deserves special mention. This journal has an international reputation as a sociological journal, and this is the first time a Japanese researcher has had an article published in this journal.

In December 2021, we conducted a web-based survey of residents in the Osaka metropolitan area and received responses from approximately 1,200 people. The survey included items on the relationship between neighborhood effects and social inequality, along with new questions on changes in life in the Covid-19. Analysis was conducted from various angles, including these new questions, and a research report ("Social Ties and Neighborhood Relations in the Osaka Metropolitan Area," Department of Sociology, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Osaka City University) was published in March 2022.

As mentioned above, due to the short research period caused by the Covid-19 and limited

opportunities to participate in international conferences, the number of papers published at the international level was small, but the fact that several papers were published in leading international journals is still a significant achievement. On the other hand, we were able to publish two books of translations ("The Rich" by Hanaden-sha and "Homeless First Aid Squad" by Hanaden-sha), a research report and an edited book ("Research on the Osaka - Kobe Area Studies " by Nakanishiya Publishing) as a result of our joint research. The translations have contributed to international exchange and dissemination in introducing overseas trends to Japan. We are also considering publishing an edited volume in English, which many of our members have participated in writing, and we believe that we have made preparations for international dissemination of our work in the future.