

**A Comprehensive Study Examining the Forms of Social Stratification in an Aging Society and Constructing Public Norms**

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**【Outline of survey】**

There are two main objectives in this study. The first is to examine the forms and the generating mechanism of social stratification in an aging society. The second is to construct the theoretical concept of public norm, as the backbone of our aging society that maintains a high level of sustainability and of equity. We plan to conduct a large-scaled nationally-representative survey primarily targeted at the elderly in 2010. In this survey, we will interview not only respondents but also their co-resident members in the household, and the questionnaire for the family members living separately will be included. Case studies of the families facing economic difficulties such as lone-parents and single-person households will also be conducted. Based on such empirical analyses of various types of survey data, we will develop stratification theory that can explain socio-economic inequality in an ageing society.

**【Expected results】**

The previous stratification theory was primarily built on people's social positions determined by the relationship to the labor market, and those who are either temporarily or permanently out (such as by retirement) of the labor market were left out. In contrast, our study will develop social stratification theory for the new era with ageing population to explore the mechanism through which the socio-economic resources are allocated in a rapidly aging society.

**【References by the principal researcher】**

- *The Unseen Gaps in an Aging Society: Locating Gender, Generation, and Class in Japan* (2005, University of Tokyo Press)
- *Inequality in a Changing Society: Hidden Disparities behind the Demographic Shift in Japan* (ed.) (2006, University of Tokyo Press)

**【Term of project】** FY2008—2012

**【Budget allocation】**

**129,400,000 yen** (direct cost)

**【Homepage address】**

under construction