Ochanomizu University Global COE Program
Science of Human Development for Restructuring the
"Gap-Widening Society"

September 2009

Newsletter no.4

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INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

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Greetings from leader in the International Inequality Research Group

The goal of activities in the field of International Inequality is to clarify the structures of international inequality and approaches to educational support aimed at reducing these inequalities. Two examples of ongoing large-scale international joint research are "International comparative research on process of acquiring reading and writing skills in early childhood and the effects of environmental factors (Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia)", and "International comparative research on the effects of educational environments on parent/child QOL and the mental and physical health and development of children

(Japan, Australia, Vietnam, and Thailand)". In cooperation with international agencies, we are also conducting an international collaboration project on early childhood education with a focus on Central and Western Africa, along with an evaluation of impact. We believe that participation in these activities by graduate school students and young researchers will lead to the establishment of international networks and the cultivation of an international perspective. All of the members have extensive international experience, and devote themselves to educational and research activities on a daily basis.



Takashi Hamano/Associate Professor Leader in the International Inequality Research Group

Disciplinary Linkage Project

The Ochanomizu University Global COE Program is implementing the Disciplinary Linkage Project to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among three research fields: "International inequality," "Educational and social inequality," and "Inequality in Childrearing." This seminar was hosted by the Childrearing Inequality Research Group.

The 3rd Disciplinary Linkage Project Seminar

Quality of Life: From infancy through adolescence

Date/time: April 12, 2009 (Sunday); 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Venue: Ochanomizu University; Education Division, Meeting Rm. 1 Participants: 60

On 12 April 2009, the Global COE Program held an open seminar on Children's Quality of Life (QOL) as the third semi-

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のこと。
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(身体が、国戸的、社会
の何志に沿った手列間

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(国路、発達、健康)を
・ 成人・子ども現在地に

◆ 国際的な社般が可能

nar of the Disciplinary Linkage Project. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Junichi Furusho (Aoyama Gakuin University) presented the comprehensive report of Japanese children's quality of life. In addition, basic researches on QOL among children (infancy through adolescence), introduction of international comparative study, and report of the relationship between QOL and media usage were also presented. After presentation, audience engaged in a very active and meaningful discussion.



Understanding the Continuum of Language Development in Infancy and Early Childhood

Hosted by International Inequality and Inequality in Childrearing Groups, Nichara Ruangdaraganon, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, presented a lecture on April 30, 2009, about the characteristics and disorders related to language development in infant children. Dr. Nichara provided an easy to understand introduction to the unique characteristics

of autism in children and the conditions and issues being faced in Thailand, as well as a brief explanation of the characteristics and disorders related to language development among infants, based on her personal experiences. The 20 participants engaged in lively discussions, and it became clear that developmental disorders are a major issue in education and society not only in Japan, but in other Asian countries as well.



Inequalities and Disparities in Early Childhood Education in Vietnam

The Global COE Program of Ochanomizu University held an international seminar on inequalities and disparities in early childhood education in Vietnam on June 1, 2009. First, Dr. Le Thi Thanh Thuy, Associate Professor of Hanoi University of Education, made a presentation on elimination of disparities and inequalities in early childhood education through innovation of teaching and learning arts. Next, Dr. Dang Hong Phuong, Lecturer of Hanoi Univer-

sity of Education presented the current situation and challenges of physical education for preschool education in Vietnam. The 27 participants actively asked questions regarding the relationship between child centricity and the correction of inequalities, as well as the setting of standards for physical development and measurement of strength in children, and the methodological problems that such standards present. The discussions were of great value to all involved.



New Approaches to Educational Assessment

Student and School Assessments that Improve School Policy and Practice

In a lecture held on June 9, 2009, Dr. Douglas Willms, Professor and Director of the Canadian Reserch Institute for Social Policy, University of New Brunswick, highlighted the importance of measuring inequity and introduced a comprehensive evaluation framework which considers the different developmental stages from early childhood to adolescence. Then, using the "Early Years Evaluation" (EYE), an instrument for the direct assessment of children's

developmental skills at ages 3 to 6, and "Tell Them From Me", an evaluation system for the continuous monitoring of school climate and student engagement and wellness, Dr. Willms demonstrated how educational data could provide useful information for parents, schools, and educational policy. There were many questions from the 40 participants (of which 25 were from outside of the university), regarding the difference between Canadian and Japanese culture on

data collection, protection of use of data on individual abilities, measurement of family background in international achievement data, etc.



An Introductory Workshop on Hierarchical Linear Models (HLM)

In this workshop held on June 11, 2009, Dr. Willms familiarized participants with analytic techniques appropriate for analyses of hierarchically structured data. Dr. Willms also highlighted the importance of organized data management and cleaning

process prior to HLM analyses. In order to acquire hands-on knowledge and skills, each participant analyzed a common dataset, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2006 Japan, using the HLM software on their own PCs.





REPORT Grant-In-Aid Research Award Report

13:05-13:15 加藤邦子

13:15-13:25 尹 鈴喜

育児期の父親が子どもへのコミットメントを高める要因: Focus Group Discussion を用いて

"Grant-In-Aid Research Award" is a research grant system in which a grant of up to 500,000 yen is presented for research selected through a screening of plans. The research plans were evaluated and screened from six perspectives in each of three fields of specialization: sociology, psychology and education. Based on the results, 19 research plans were selected from among 34 applications. The successful applicants were presented with 500,000 yen. A public meeting was held on April 25, 2009, and participants reported on the results of their research over the past year. There were 18 presentations, as one of the participants was unable to attend for personal reasons. The very detailed presentations continued from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, with one rest break. These numerous studies from differing fields of sociology, psychology, and education shared the common perspective of "inequality", while at the same time incorporating research that focused on important issues in each field.

In addition to presenting research results at the public meeting, persons selected for the "Grant-In-Aid Research

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Award" program are required to publish a paper in a GCOE Proceedings or in some academic journal. In 2009, nineteen out of 36 applicants were selected (total amount of grants: 9.45 million yen).



Open lectures

Violence and Gender

A lecture on violence and gender was held on March 17, 2009. While James Gilligan's lecture was titled "Sex, Gender and Violence", Carol Gilligan talked about "Strengthening Healthy

Resistance and Courage in Children: A Gender-Based Strategy for Preventing Youth Violence." The large audience was moved by Drs. Gilligan's powerful speeches.

French Family Policies and the Work/ Family Life Balance Issue

This open lecture was held on June 15, 2009. Dr. Jeanne Fagnagni, a Research Director at the CNRS, lectured about family policies in France. In the second part of the lecture, family policies were discussed from the perspective of gender/disparity. Professor

Machiko Kamio participated in this discussion as a debater. There were many participants, and they engaged in an active discussion from various standpoints.

Introduction of **Invited Teachers**

At this COE, in addition to faculty members in charge of program promotion, we have invited teachers engaging in their research activities and related tasks: an associate professor, a lecturer and an assistant professor as well as a total of 8 research fellows and associate fellows.

Associate Professor

Masami Ikeda

Ph.D. in Psychology, Ochanomizu University (2001). Masami Ikeda specializes in cognitive psychology, science education, and developmental education technology.



In addition to experimental study on human visual perception, she has been working in research on thinking and communication. Currently she devotes her efforts in development of teaching materials and teaching methods related to logical thinking and science literacy in elementary and junior high school. She also hosts meetings on innovation research in collaboration with women's universities in Japan. She teaches Cognitive Psychology, Human Science Methodology, Psychological Statistics, Methodology of Genetic Counseling Study (master's course), and GCOE seminars of Human Developmental Science (doctoral course).

Lecturer

Jie Wang

Ph.D. in Sociology of Education. Jie Wang has taken an active role for years in the fields of linguistics and sociology of education, experiencing the differences of cultures



and the educational front lines between China and Japan. The key words of her research include equality of educational opportunities, educational expenses, student assistance, and career guidance. She has published "Expansion and Transformation of Higher Education Opportunity in China" (Toshindo Publishing; 2008). She teaches Introduction to Sociology of Education, GCOE Human Developmental Sciences I, etc. From this year, as one of research members, she began to participate in JELS*, a series of surveys intended for 3rd grade, 6th grade, 9th grade, and 12th grade, along with their parents and teachers.

Assistant Professor

Yuko Nonoyama-Tarumi

Ph.D., Columbia University. Nonoyama-Tarumi specializes in comparative education, international educational development, and sociology of educa-



tion. She currently conducts research on inequity in student achievement and parenting, and international comparisons of measurement of family background through analyses of cross-national education and household surveys. She is also involved in data collection at Japanese elementary, junior high, and high schools through the JELS* and evaluation of JICA training "Early Childhood Education in Central and Western Africa." She teaches GCOE Human Development Sciences III, International Educational Cooperation, etc. Until fall 2008, she was in charge of research and evaluation in the Early Childhood Development Unit of the UNICEF headquarters in New York.

*JELS: Japan Education Longitudinal Studies

Information on Scheduled Events

4th East Asian "Child Studies" Interaction Program: "Development of Language and Neuroscience: Research and Practice in East Asia"

Specialists from Japan, China, and Korea will conduct discussions on how language development is affected by factors such as social and cultural environments and parent/child relationships, based on comparisons of research and practice in the three countries.

Date: September 11, 2009 (Friday) Venue: Ochanomizu University; Faculty of Science, Bldg. 3, Rm. 701 Please refer to the following HP for details: http://www2.crn.or.jp/blog/top/2009/07/4-9.html

6th Child Studies Meeting: "Children, the Environment, and Neuroscience"

This meeting will provide an interdisciplinary venue for participation by anyone who is interested in children, including researchers, educators, child care workers, and parents raising children. The goal of the meeting is to encourage discussions on a wide range of issues related to children and the environments in which they live.

Date: September 12 (Saturday) and 13 (Sunday), 2009

Venue: Ochanomizu University

For details, please refer to the Ochanomizu University Global COE HP: http://ocha-gaps-gcoe.com/

International Symposium: "Evolution and Development of Children's Play: Sociocultural Exploration"

This International Symposium will be held according to the outline provided below. Through discussions from the perspectives of evolutionary psychology, cultural anthropology, and early childhood education, the participants will investigate the significance of play and the learning process in child development, and the process of collaborative knowledge formation by children and adults. We look forward to your participation.

Date/time: October 17, 2009 (Saturday); 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (tentative) Venue: Ochanomizu University; Common Lecture Hall; Bldg. 2, Rm. 201 Keynote Lecture: Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa (Kyoto University)

Panelists: Prof. Hiroko Hara (Josai International University); Prof. Ki Sook Lee (Ewha Womans University, Korea)

Designated Debaters: Prof. Yoichi Sakakihara;

Prof. Masumi Sugawara (Ochanomizu University)

MC/Coordinator: Prof. Nobuko Uchida (Ochanomizu University)

Host: Ochanomizu University Global COE

Participation fee: Free Language used: Japanese

For details, please refer to the Ochanomizu University Global COE HP:

http://ocha-gaps-gcoe.com/

■Editorial Board

In the first half of this year, we conducted research meetings and numerous international seminars that examined the problems of inequality in international society, and were able to promote active academic interactions with researchers from Japan and around the world. In this 4th Newsletter, we focused mainly on introducing a variety of research activities and international seminars.

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