

Kyoto's Legacy of Psychological Scholarship

Kyoto University has long been one of Japan's main centers for fundamental research in the field of psychological studies. The origins of that legacy lie in the work of scholars such as Kitaro Nishida, founder of the internationally renowned Kyoto School of philosophy, and pioneering psychopathologist Shinkichi Imamura. Other leading lights include Kinji Imanishi and Junichiro Itani, who became the founding fathers of primatology through their post-war studies on Japanese macaques and chimpanzees, and Hayao Kawai, the noted Jungian clinical psychologist, who made a major contribution to the practice of clinical and analytical psychology and its diffusion throughout the nation. The journal *Shinrigaku Hyoron (Psychological Review)*, which collects and publishes Japanese psychology research, the international psychology journal *Psychologia*, and *Primates*, the world's first journal devoted entirely to primatology, were all founded by Kyoto University researchers. The lineage of outstanding researchers in psychology fields continues at Kyoto University to this day, and the current generation is highly active throughout a broad spectrum of related fields.

Kyoto University researchers typically transcend the boundaries of their own specific fields, freely adopting and utilizing diverse areas of scholarship and methodologies for the advancement of their research. My mentor Junichiro Itani created ecological anthropology, which could not be restricted to any single specific field, such as anthropology, ecology, or sociology. Masashi Murakami, who followed Shinkichi Imamura as a leading psychopathologist, traversed neuropsychology, child psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, neurochemistry, neurophysiology, and histopathology and fostered the skills of many other leading scholars in those areas. This particular quality of Kyoto University continues into the present. In 2007, we founded

the Kokoro Research Center to integrate research from diverse academic fields. Then, in 2010, we established the Unit for the Integrated Studies of the Human Mind, which brought together researchers from thirteen of the university's academic faculties to collaborate and work together.

Thanks to economic growth and the development of science and technology, the environment in which we live today seems far more materially abundant than that of our parents' or grandparents' generations. But what about our psychological condition? Recently, Japan confronts an increasing number of issues and incidents rooted in psychological problems or deficiencies. It is now ever more important for us to gain a comprehensive understanding of the workings of the mind from many different perspectives.

This issue of Research Activities introduces Kyoto University's research into psychology and the mind. The articles herein represent just a small sample of the research that is being undertaken on our campuses, but as you turn these pages, I am certain that you will be impressed by the diversity and creativity that you will find. I hope that you will find the research presented in this volume to be of interest, and that some of our readers may even be inspired to join us in our endeavors.

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