

2020/6/10

異分野融合プロジェクト公募報告会

「「アジア社会の変化と不平等」に関する
国際的学際的共同研究」

The 12th Next-Generation Global Workshop

Theme: Inequalities

Date: October 25, 26, 2019



- The Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU) held the 12th Next-Generation Global Workshop (NGGW), focusing on "Inequality".
- The conference explored how global inequality is formed, perceived, and solved, from the viewpoints of philosophy, sociology, literature, and other branches of the humanities and social sciences.
- A total of 20 papers, four from Kyoto University and 16 from overseas institutions, were presented in six sessions: "Ethnicity and Inequality", "Inequality and Ethics", "Colonialism, Post-Colonialism, and Inequality", "Religion, Caste, and Gender", "Gender and Power", and "Sexual and Domestic Violence".

- The 12th Next Generation Global Workshop focuses on “inequality” as its theme. Compared may vary in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, place of origin, sexual orientation, disability, social class, educational achievement, religion, caste, and so on.



Studies in a transdisciplinary manner

- The workshop conducted for discussing the theme of “inequality” in a transdisciplinary manner of philosophy, economics, sociology, literature, and other branches of the humanities and social sciences.
- Researchers from different fields presented 20 research studies, which focused on the concept of inequality from different perspectives and for different groups of individuals in particular country settings or on a global scale.

Highlights

- “ In pursuit of sustainable ethnic equalities via cultural dialogue among the Cham in Ninh Thuận province, Vietnam ”



As an ethnic minority with their own religion, beliefs and language, the Cham in Vietnam are a religious, linguistic minority as well.

Being the long-lasting homeland with the highest number of Cham in Vietnam, Ninh Thuận is a suitable location to examine and observe the relation between the government and the Cham in the efforts to narrow down inequalities and stabilize the plural characteristics of the cultural fabric.

- Researchers from the discipline of economic presented studies regarding the trends of income inequality between workers such as urban labourers, people belonging to different cultural minority backgrounds and so on, which provided significant insight considering income inequality is one of the mainstream debates on a global level in contemporary times.
- In addition, researchers have also discussed the marginalization of labourers in different ways such as poor working facilities, and son on along with rising income inequality, which is another significant consideration in this regard.

Highlights

➤ “ Of Inequalities and Hopes: The Gendered Connotations of the Economic Liberalization of India ”

The sex ratio in India has improved over time, along with educational enrolment rates, however, what remains striking is the continuous decline in female labour force participation rate (LFPR). There is a new form of “missing women” in the Indian labour force despite a growing economy and infrastructure development, showing a biased form of post-liberalization development.



Highlights

➤ “Unethical or Meaningful Inequalities: Sustainability as Priority in the Global Context of Pluralism of Worldviews ”

- Since the Enlightenment, “all men are created equals”, and the state should make sure that they are all treated equally. In other words, this presumption of equality is a “principle of equal distribution for all goods politically suited for the process of public distribution”. However, this principle of equal distribution faces the diversity of human values and needs. Distributing equally resources is blind to the large variation in needs. For example, a pregnant woman has different needs than an old man.
- The study explores the intricate relationship between cultural diversity, inequality and sustainability. At the global level, giving priority to sustainability over equality could avoid the interventionist traps.

evidence-based studies regarding the trends of inequality

- Researchers from multiple disciplines presented evidence-based studies regarding the trends of transformation and inequality in Asian society.
- Studies highlighted that even with the rising level of economic development and wages across different sectors on a global scale, the income inequality between individuals belonging to different sectors continues to increase with time.

Highlights

➤ “ Historical Evolution of Inequalities and Unfair Income Distribution in Japan ”



The study tries (1) to track historical evolution of inequalities and (2) to measure and illustrate unfair income inequalities in Japan.

It also illustrated Unfairness Lorenz Curve by gender respectively.

- Research studies presented evidence in this regard such as research into the caste system in India where people belonging to lower castes are marginalized and subjected to various forms of inequalities and discrimination, which is also a major reason behind their worsening predicament.
- In addition, studies have also highlighted evidence of inequalities that people face on the basis of their gender on a global scale. The workshop assessed different forms of inequalities that women and transgender individuals have to face in different communities around the world.

a mentorship of professors
and experts for young
schoolers



round-table session



Professors, experts, young schoolers and graduate students try to face the ambivalence in order to think about the problems of inequality from transdisciplinary viewpoints in the first place.

Feedbacks

The conference concluded successfully with many of the participants leaving positive feedback.

such as: "It was a great opportunity to learn about new ideas and relevant issues in academia across the globe," "I enjoyed the multi-disciplinary nature of the conference," and "I hope for and look forward to many more opportunities to visit Kyoto University for a Next-Generation Global Workshop."



Thank you very much for listening!