

Human Development

/ Human Development and Environment



Associate Professor | Department of Human Behavior

Satoshi Tsujimoto

Modern societies face a growing need to raise each individual child to be mentally sound. One way to address this issue is to clarify the neural (or brain) mechanisms of our mental activity and utilize such knowledge in various fields of applied science, namely, evidence-based application. I have adopted such approach, with an emphasis on a brain region known as prefrontal cortex. Fundamental side of my

previous research includes investigation of single-neuron activity in awake monkeys and psychophysical studies with humans, while application-bounded research have developed neurocognitive “games” that can assess cognitive ability in young children. In my new laboratory here at the Faculty of Human Development, we plan to explore the possible detrimental and facilitative factors that have influences on the brain development. I hope our research can bridge the gap between basic and applied developmental sciences, thereby ultimately contributing to better human life.



International Student French Republic

Simon Serverin

I'm a Ph.D. student studying Social Environment in the Graduate School of the Human Development and Environment. This school examines the relationships between human and the environment. However, the concept of the environment is not only confined to the "natural environment", but is also extended to the sociological environment including politics, economics

and law, which are a part of the environment that regulates and conditions the actions of an individual.

My research is on the Constitution of Japan. I think that it can be very fruitful to study this from the Human Environment point of view, even though the Constitution is traditionally a subject belonging to the legal and political studies. From this point of view, I can research the Constitution not only as a technical law text, but also as a structure of human environment, which organizes many human behaviors.

In the 21st century, it is evident that we will continue to see the advancement of scientific technology, computerization, and globalization, contributing toward further development of mankind. At the same time, we face grim prospects in issues that threaten our survival, such as ethnic conflicts, clash of values, uneven distribution of knowledge and wealth, distraction of natural environment, and energy depletion. In the constantly fluctuating world, the reshaping of the 20th century style social system, the environment preservation, and the capacity building of people to carry out these tasks will become more and more important. It is essential to enhance not only the experts' but also the general public's information/science literacy and communication skills, in order to create a sustainable society that allows us to maintain our humanity. Japan faces such pressing issues as rapid computerization, globalization of society and economy, declining population, and the depletion of energy and environment. It is vital for us to foster people who are capable of tackling these issues and to

create a civil society that will provide the base for them.

In order to explore resolutions to these issues, the Graduate School of Human Development and Environment and the Faculty of Human Development will pursue the creation of an innovative academic field of "Human and Community Development".

"Human and Community Development", which will be developed in cooperation with its various stakeholders, including the local communities, governments, corporations, and the general public, is the organic bonding of "Human Development" and "Creation of Civil Society". With the aim of creating a more people oriented society in cooperation with the stakeholders, the new field encompasses a range of research undertakings, which fundamentally and practically explore the human development processes, as well as the environment that supports human development.

To be more specific, we will pursue ways to resolve the following issues through interdisciplinary approaches: safer local community to raise children,

more self-reliance support for children and youth, more opportunities for adults and elderly people to continue learning and enhance their lives; better multicultural symbiosis, closely tied into the disabled, foreigners, and gender issues; the recreation of a value system for the survival and development of humankind; the creation of a sustainable society; and conservation of the global environment. To achieve these objectives, we will utilize the Faculty and Graduate School's attached facility "Institute of Human Development Support", consisting of "Psychological Counseling Center", "Center for Enhancing Social Contribution", and "Action Research Center for Human and Community Development". We will also work in collaboration with the six attached schools.

Education Programs To achieve our goals and foster highly specialized professionals, the Graduate School established five divisions, all with a Doctoral Degree Program (three-year program for those who hold Master's Degrees) corresponding to each division, and 14 Master's Degree Program (two-year program). The Faculty of Human Development offers 15 Undergraduate Degree Programs, as well.

Undergraduate Program

Divisions	Courses
Human Development and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developmental Psychology •Child Development •Elementary Education •Educational Science
Human Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Health Promotion and Education •Behavioral Development •Sport Sciences
Human Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expressive Culture •Expression-Creation •Clinical KANSEI-Expression
Human Environmental Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social Environment •Living Environment •Natural Environmental Science •Mathematics and Informatics
(Across Divisions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support for Human Development

Research Areas Covered by the Graduate School

Divisions	Research Areas
Psychological Development and Health Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Psychological Development •Health Promotion and Education
Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Science of Education •Child Development •Support for Human Development
Human Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sport Sciences •Behavioral Development
Human Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expressive Culture •Expression - Creation
Human Environmental Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Natural Environmental Science •Mathematics and Informatics •Living Environment •Social Environment •Advanced Human Environmental Science (Adjunct)

Address

3-11 Tsurukabuto, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, Japan Tel. +81(78)881-1212 E-mail: info@h.kobe-u.ac.jp
<http://www.h.kobe-u.ac.jp/337>