

## **Report on the 71<sup>st</sup> Fall Meeting**

**Japan Society for the Study of Social Welfare  
The 71<sup>st</sup> Fall Conference, Executive Committee Chairperson,  
Watanabe Yuichi (Musashino University)**

The 71st Fall Conference of the Japanese Society of Social Welfare was held on October 14 and 15, 2023, under the title, "The Challenge of Social Welfare Studies to Shape Happiness in the World." Unfortunately, it rained in the morning of the second day, causing great inconvenience to the participants, but for the first time in a long time since the spread of COVID-19, the Fall Meeting was held as a totally face-to-face meeting.

I would like to thank Chairperson Hiroto Kuga, Committee Chair Kayoko Ito and all other members of the Conference Steering Committee, and the Conference Help Desk (International Academic Publishing Co., Ltd.) for repeatedly addressing the attendants. Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the professors who willingly took on the roles of general supervisor and/ or moderator for the oral sessions. Their guidance and cooperation made it possible to run the convention smoothly.

This year was also the year Japan was in charge of coordinating the academic exchange among Japan, China and South Korea, and we were very fortunate to host the international academic symposium and to address the opening ceremony and information exchange session. We would also like to thank all who came to the event.

At the symposium planned by the hosting institution, "Addressing Human Rights Challenges in the SDGs and Examining Issues for Social Welfare Studies," Professor Kohei Saito (Associate Professor, University of Tokyo) delivered a keynote speech titled "A Critical Examination of the SDGs and the Future of Human Rights Issues." The symposium featured speakers Professor Takanori Fujita (Director of NPO Hot Plus, Specially Appointed Associate Professor at Seigakuin University), Professor Akiko Kojima (Professor at Osaka Metropolitan University), Professor Natsuko Minamino (Professor at Toyo University), and Professor Vince Okada (Assistant Professor at Hawaii Pacific University). Professor

Kohei Saito continued as a commenter, and Professor Dai Kinoshita of our university served as coordinator. Many participants commented that the symposium was exciting, including the summary, while covering a difficult but very "challenging" topic. I would like to thank Professor Kohei Saito, who gave the keynote address, and all the speakers who took on the challenge of working together on this difficult topic. Thank you so much.

In addition to the symposium planned by the hosting institution in charge of the conference, on the first day (14th), the Research Support Committee held a start-up symposium, "How to Support the Needs of Young Researchers." The International Student and International Comparative Research Workshop "Multicultural Coexistence in Social Welfare Research and Education (2): Current Situation and Challenges in Accepting and Responding to Diverse Students including International Students, Ethnic Minorities, and Cultural Minorities in South Korea and China" was also held. On the second day (15th), an international academic symposium (symposium planned by the Society), "What is Needed for Social Welfare for Well-Being," took place. Lastly, a conference planned by the Society, "Considering International Collaborative Research in Social Welfare Studies" was held.

The Executive Committee embarked on a wide range of activities: thorough COI declaration in preparation of abstracts, etc., screen projection of project data (PDF) using a pre-registration system, advance confirmation of screen projection contents and poster affixing contents, prohibition of distribution of printed materials, elimination of distribution of programs using the conference bags and paper, setting a separate time slot for poster presentations (no overlap with oral presentations, symposia, etc. ), holding information exchange meetings, selling confectioneries in cooperation with neighboring facilities at the conference venue and oral presentation venue, providing green tea and coffee,.

Through these efforts, we aimed to be more sustainable, generate more exchanges, and better promote research presentations. As a result, the total number of applicants for participation was 633, and the numbers of research presentations were 125 for oral presentations, 37 for poster presentations, and 2 for specific subject sessions (6 presentations). Additionally, the information exchange meeting

was attended by 109 people, including the guests, facilitating research presentations and exchange among the many participants. Furthermore, the conference bag and paper references, which are likely to be discarded after the conference, were significantly reduced, COI notations were thoroughly and ethically checked in advance for abstracts as well as slide and poster data to be used on the day of the conference, and poster presentations were revitalized.

However, there were many things to be regretted. Because of insufficient notice from the organizing committee: 1) many abstracts were returned due to incomplete COI notations; 2) printed materials were distributed despite the prohibition of distribution of printed materials; 3) information security problems occurred in sessions where multiple languages were used; 4) the number of participants for poster presentations exceeded expectations, making it difficult to move around the venue and resulting in insufficient time; and 5) we were unable to use reusable cups when serving green tea and coffee; 6) questions about how the Executive Committee was not consistent enough, providing PET bottles for drinks at the conference symposium planned by the host institution and for drinks accompanying box lunches. 7) problems with moving between the two buildings when it rained, due to the fact that the two sessions were held in two different buildings; and (8) lack of information at the venue, and the list goes on and on.

While poster presentations were well attended and discussions were lively, there were also oral presentations where only the presenter (moderator) and general manager were present. There were moments that made us think about how we should hold the fall conference in the future. From those who took time out of busy schedules to accept the position of general director, there were comments of whether “there was any point in having a general director.”

We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for any inconvenience and discomfort caused. I recognize that these are due to my lack of insight and understanding as conference committee chair.

At the same time, we received many very warm words of encouragement from the conference participants to the students, graduate students, staff, and faculty of the conference organizing committee.

Specifically, they include praise regarding proactive guidance (talking to people), flexible response to requests, and good communication and teamwork among staff. In particular, the teamwork fostered through the opportunity to be involved in the organization of this tournament will be a treasure for the University in the future.

I am very aware that there were many things that were not done properly, but the staff of the conference committee worked together to organize the 71st Fall Meeting. We will continue to "take on the challenge" by learning from the suggestions we receive and conveying them to those hosting future conferences.

As I conclude my report on the 71st Fall Meeting of the Japanese Society of Social Welfare, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who participated and contributed to the conference.

Thank you so much for everything. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Report on Academic Exchange Among Three Countries: China, South Korea, and Japan**

**Vice-President/Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare,  
Koichi Kaneko (Toyo University)**

I am very pleased that this year, we were able to conduct face-to-face international academic exchanges, which in the past could only be done online, from the perspective of preventing the spread of the COVID-19. This will be the first time in five years that Japan will directly host the Tripartite Conference and International Academic Symposium as the secretariat since it was held at Kinjo Gakuin University in FY 2018.

On the day before the conference (October 13), a meeting of representatives was held at 5:00 p.m. at the Kichijoji Excel Hotel Tokyu. At the meeting, the representatives discussed the future promotion of academic exchanges among the three countries. First, it was confirmed that the MOU would be renewed in the next fiscal year (FY2024), and that the contents of the MOU would be closely examined in each country toward this end. In addition, the committee requested China, which will serve as the secretariat for the next fiscal year, to make preparations for holding a representative meeting and an international academic symposium. It was confirmed that the theme of the symposium would be chosen to include issues that can be discussed in common, such as the challenges faced by an aging society with a declining birthrate. It was a great pleasure to have an opportunity for the representatives of the three countries to meet and interact with each other.

On the first day of the conference (October 14), a workshop for international students and teachers supervising international students was held from 10:00. The theme of this year's workshop, "Multicultural Coexistence in Social Welfare Research and Education (2): Current Situation and Challenges in Accepting and Responding to Diverse Students including International Students, Ethnic Minorities, and Cultural Minorities in South Korea and China," followed the theme of the previous workshop. Professor Chunlan Gao of Changchun University of Technology from China and Professor

Jeongmi Lim of Gyeongsang National University from South Korea spoke on the panel. A group work/discussion session followed at 11:10. The overall coordinators were the committee members, Professor Virag Viktor and Professor Aya Kuroda.

On the second day of the convention (October 15), an international academic symposium was held at 9:30 a.m. under the theme, "What is Needed for Social Welfare for Well-Being?" The Japanese representative was Professor Katsunobu Kihara (Doshisha University), former president of the Society; the South Korean representative was Professor Soowan Kim (Kangnam University); and the Chinese representative was Professor Chenxi Huang (East China Normal University). Committee members, Professor Takahiro Asano and Megumi Tokoro served as coordinators. The environment surrounding us is changing dramatically at a global scale, with global warming and other changes in the natural environment as well as the spread of new coronaviruses. Against this backdrop, the panelists representing various countries considered "what well-being means to each of us" and commented on what was required of social welfare to support it. The symposium took a multifaceted approach to highlight the issues, taking into account the current situation in each country.

It took a long time from the preparation work to the selection of speakers for the conference, and I apologize for the inconvenience caused to those involved, but with the cooperation of the International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee members, members of the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare, and graduate students, we were able to successfully complete the conference.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all those who provided us assistance.

## **On Receiving the 2023 Japan Society for the Study of Social Welfare Academic Award**

As a result of the judging process by the Academic Awards Committee, the Academic Awards for 2023 were decided: Kentaro Hayashi was selected for the Academic Awards (single author category), and Ari Osawa and Daisuke Amahata were selected for the Incentive Award (single author category).

The award ceremony was held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the first day of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fall Meeting, at Seccho Auditorium (*Seccho Kodo*) Musashino Campus, Musashino University, following the opening ceremony.

Below are the comments of the award winners.

### **A Theory of the History of the Establishment of the Income Security Legal System: The Formation of the “Livelihood Security System” and the Role of Law in the United Kingdom**

**The Academic Awards (single author category),  
Kentaro Hayashi (Keio Economic Observatory, KEO)  
(Shinzansha Publisher, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022)**

I am deeply honored to receive the very prestigious award of the Society's Academic Prize for my book, "The History of the Establishment of the Income Security Legislation." I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the judging panel, who spent their valuable time in reviewing my work. I would like to thank you again.

This book, as can be seen by the fact that it contains the term “theory” of the history of the establishment, is an attempt to analyze the long-term historical process of the United Kingdom from the 14th century to the first half of the 20th century according to an analytical framework based on a certain consciousness of an issue. What I mean here is how "labor," or working to earn a living, and "social security," or historically speaking, a system in which members of a community cooperate to support each other's livelihood, were constructed over a long period of history. The question is what

the role of "law" was in making this combination possible.

This consciousness of the issue and the analytical framework were derived from the question of how one might think about contemporary issues such as that it is not possible to maintain a stable life through work alone, such as the working poor, and the inability of social security systems based on work to effectively respond to such realities.

The first difficult (and time-consuming) task in compiling this book was how to structure this contemporary awareness of the problem as an analytical framework of historical research. After the analytical framework as historical research was clarified, the second difficult task was to decipher and organize the vast number of historical documents. In their comments upon receiving the award, the judging committee was honestly pleased, recalling the hard work that had gone into the project, commenting that "the analytical viewpoint is unique," and that "the careful handling of data and the evaluation derived from it are accurate and precise."

On the other hand, as they also pointed out in their "critique," I recognize that the question is (although not only) "how to apply this to the field of social welfare." Reflecting again on what the consciousness of the issue was in this book, my focus is, in essence, how to think about the gap between the legal system and the people's lives.

A legal system is built on the premise of a certain image of human beings and their lives, and once the system is established and stabilized, it in turn defines the image of human beings and their lives. Moreover, a legal system cannot reflect all the raw facts, but rather it fits reality and real life into the framework of "legal facts" through the requirements of laws and regulations, etc. The analysis in this book always has this issue in mind. How can we accept such divergence and tension between law and fact, and how can we ensure that the disadvantages arising from such divergence and tension do not have a one-sided negative impact on people's lives?: This question applies not only to this book, but also to the examination of all legal systems related to social security and social welfare, which are closely related to people's lives. Although not necessarily relevant to this book, I would like to do my

best for the future development of the academic community from the standpoint of a legal researcher, while maintaining such awareness of these issues.

**Educational Practices of Janusz Korczak:  
Exploration of institutional childcare to safeguard children's rights**

**The Encouragement Award (single author category)**

**Ari Osawa (Sapporo Otani University & Junior College of Sapporo Otani University)**

**(Rikka Press, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

I am truly honored to receive the prestigious Encouragement Award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the judges and to the Rikka Press for their invaluable assistance in publishing my book.

Based on a doctoral dissertation submitted to the Graduate School of Education, Hokkaido University in September 2018, this book is a historical and concrete study of the educational practices at the orphanage headed by Janusz Korczak, a Polish educator and Jew, who is considered to have influenced the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1989. This book historically and concretely clarifies the educational practices at the orphanage where Janusz Korczak, a Polish educator and Jew, served as director, and examines the process of formation and deepening of his thought.

During the 13 years that I studied in Poland, wrote my master's thesis at Warsaw University and submitted my doctoral dissertation at Hokkaido University, I was supported by many people, including Korczak researchers in Japan and Poland, my mentors, acquaintances and friends who guided me in my research. I am filled with gratitude to all those who supported and encouraged my research.

Although Janusz Korczak is a subject in the field of education, I wanted to discuss him in the context of social welfare and child welfare, given that he lived with orphans and children from poor families in the midst of Jewish discrimination and war, and thought about guaranteeing children's

rights in this context. Furthermore, I focused not only on Kolchak's accomplishments, but also on the organization that made his practice possible, the Orphan Relief Society, the records of the staff and children who practiced with him and understanding the state of child protection in Poland at the time, situating his practice within that context. I have taken the plunge and published this book, leaving some inadequacies and problems unresolved. Now, however, I am most pleased that the book has been recognized not by the educational field, but by the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare.

I began Kolchak's research as a personal interest, but after returning to Japan and being enrolled in a doctoral program at Hokkaido University Graduate School, I felt compelled to continue his research to address issues surrounding children in Japan today. From now on, based on my past research, I would like to work harder in my research and education, aiming for a society where every child is respected as a human being and can live as the person in control of his or her own life.

## **What is Life without Speech?**

**The Encouragement Award (single author category)  
Daisuke Amahata (General Incorporated Association Waon)  
(Seikatsushoin Co., Ltd., February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022)**

Thank you very much for selecting me for the Encouragement Award. There are countless people I would like to thank for this paper, but I would like to express my gratitude once again to my mentor, Dr. Shinya Tateiwa.

Being unable to move my hands, feet, and mouth freely, I decided that “research was the only thing I could do as my life's work!” It was Professor Tateiwa of Ritsumeikan University, who opened the door to the graduate school for me. Despite my unprecedented severe disability, he said to me, “You finally came.” Without Professor Tateiwa, who gave me the opportunity to pursue research, I would not be where I am today.

Something I could not believe happened. Dr. Tateiwa passed away suddenly this past July 2023. It was the following day that I received the news that I had won the Encouragement Award. It was a small relief for me in the midst of my deep sorrow that I was at least able to report my news to him in his casket at the funeral.

This book, *What is Life Without Speech?*, is based on my doctoral dissertation. Writing this dissertation was the very process of acquiring a "sense of ownership" for me. Until then, I had never truly accepted my disability since I became moderately disabled at the age of 14. I thought I was dependent, the kind of person who could not live without the help of others, because I could not do it myself. That was me—a severely disabled person.

However, as I continued my research, I gradually changed my mind. My research might become a source of encouragement for someone else to live their lives in their own way.

When I came to believe that I could speak to society about my difficulties and disabilities, I was able to discard the label of myself as a severely disabled person, which I had previously identified with powerlessness. In other words, writing the dissertation was a process of regaining pride in myself. Even today, there are many people who are unable to speak up and have difficulty living (*Ikizurasa*) in society. I would like to continue my research and activities which I hope will have an impact on such people, even if it is small.

In addition, this publication was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and a Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the award, which will encourage me in my future research activities.

## A Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> CS-NET Salon

**Member, the Research Support Committee,  
Koyasu Yumiko  
(Nihon Fukushi University/Nihon Fukushi University Graduate Schools)**

The third CS-NET Salon project was held online for two hours on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., during a heat wave. The theme was, "Conflicts between Research and Private Life." In the first part of the session, three early career researchers in different situations presented their topics. The goal was for them to freely discuss how graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and those who have obtained jobs and are working, are carrying on with their education, research, work, and private life.

First, Mr. Daiki Matsumoto, a master's degree student at Nihon Fukushi University, spoke about his daily life and concerns that he had of being a *Straight Master* (prioritize research and go directly to a master's program after the bachelor's degree). Mr. Matsumoto does not hold a regular job, since he puts his research first, and is thus supporting himself by a scholarship and holding several part-time jobs. He also makes good use of ICT by downloading e-books to his cell phone, listening to PDFs of papers and other documents using a text-to-speech application, and playing lecture videos while he travels. On the other hand, he also finds it difficult to balance money and time. He said that he filled out his schedules as he had time, but he could never get rid of the haunting feeling of not having enough money or savings. Therefore he would like to see the outside world through salon activities like the one he is participating in today. "When I heard the term *Straight Master*, I had an image that I would have lots of time to devote to research, but I have been reminded that it is not easy to find a secure environment to devote to research, as there is another challenge of continuing research while earning a living.

Ms Junko Kondo, a doctoral student at Hokkaido University's graduate school, next spoke about her research as a graduate student and about her work and child rearing. Ms. Kondo went on to pursue a master's degree (*Straight Master*) and is currently conducting research while raising her three children

and working at a mother and child living support facility (*boshi seikatsu shien shisetsu*). Her encounter with her research topic was due to a career setback after she experienced pregnancy and childbirth. Her experience raising children was connected to her work and research, and she has constantly struggled to balance her life and work. She thought that as her children grew up, the way she used her time would change. However, she continued to spend more time on her children than she had imagined. Therefore, she improved the living environment through making a floor plan that created more space and time, through the use of a storage advisor, and through the use of home appliances. When her husband decided to relocate, she decided not to go with him and to continue her research. She also used videophone and other online means to make time for her family. Many unexpected things happen when juggling among family, work, and research. However, there are some realizations that only become apparent when those directly involved experience such situations themselves, such as the importance of creating an environment in which they can continue their research.

Finally, Mr. Chen Sheng, an academic researcher at the Graduate School of Education, Hokkaido University, spoke about his research life since his arrival in Japan as an international student, to the present, and his current state of mind. He shared his concerns and problems he faced in continuing his research and living in Japan as a foreigner. For example, he mentioned concerns about his visa (the type of visa to obtain, possibility of extending his visa, whether or not to change his visa status), whether or not he will be able to be financially independent, and concerns about his future. He also expressed anxiety about not having anyone to talk to about these concerns and worries. When searching for research positions, he said it was difficult to determine whether his research qualified for the content of the open positions, revealing his concerns and worries about pursuing a career as a researcher outside of his home country.

In the second part, the participants were divided into breakout rooms for free discussion. A lively exchange of ideas took place on how to refresh oneself and to use time when one was having trouble going forward in terms of research. Time usage seems to be a common concern for many participants,

and it is difficult to find time for research, not only for practitioners but also for those in full-time positions. They shared their own rules, such as not staying at the university until late, going home at a set time, and making the most of morning hours. As one who struggles with the use of time myself, I could relate to many of them. The participants also commented on the essential cooperation and understanding of those around them as they continue their careers as researchers.

Serving as a time for reflection, the participants commented that they felt "encouraged" and were "more comfortable talking about their feelings," confirming that this salon was meaningful for them.

Although there were few participants this time because the topic did not seem to be directly related to research at first glance, it was a valuable time to discuss some fundamentals that support research.

I switched from a practitioner career to a research position in order to spend more time on research. I am very grateful to be in an academic environment. However, I have not been able to find as much time for research as I would like. Although there are many factors, I feel that participating in this salon project and being able to talk openly with people who share the same concerns was a catalyst for future research. I hope that through this project, various networks will continue to expand.

## 翻訳

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## Translation

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