

10th Anniversary JUNBA Symposium in Tokyo



On 30 September, the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) held the JUNBA 2016 symposium at GakushiKaikan in Tokyo. More than 110 participants from various universities and companies were in attendance.

JUNBA is a network of Japanese university offices located mainly in the Bay Area. The JSPS San Francisco Office plays an important role as a core member to promote the activities of JUNBA. In this symposium, titled “Looking back on 10 years”, JUNBA aimed to reflect on past activities and share experiences and knowledge so as to support global higher education in Japan.

The keynote speech was given by Mr. Hiroshi Yoshimoto, Deputy Director-General, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). His speech, entitled “Internationalizing Japanese Universities and Development of Global Human Resources,” explained the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

10th Anniversary JUNBA Symposium	1	Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.	
Stanford Symposium Co-sponsored by JSPS...	2	Makoto Fukushima	6
Gathering for Japanese Researchers	3	News from Japanese Universities	
JSPS Info Session and Networking Lunch.....	4	Hokkaido University	8
Upcoming Events and Application deadlines..	5	Office Staff Switch.....	9
		Tips from the Local Staff	11

(Continued from page 1)

current status of the globalization of Japanese universities, including international student enrollment figures and World University rankings. He also introduced a number of government-run higher education projects, such as the “Top Global University Project” and “Re-Inventing Japan Project.”

Two panel sessions were held in the afternoon. Seven JUNBA board members (Directors of Japanese university bases in the US) and a JUNBA executive advisor from California State University East Bay joined the panel to discuss the current status and issues surrounding training programs for Japanese students in the US as well as how to establish a university base in the US. Panelists shared practical information about various interesting student training programs and answered questions from the audience.

In the upcoming years, JUNBA will expand their activities assisting Japanese universities.

Please visit the following website for more information about JUNBA:

<http://www.junba.org/aboutus.html>

Stanford Symposium “Womenomics, the Workplace, and Women” Co-sponsored by JSPS

On November 4, JSPS Co-sponsored this year’s Stanford Silicon Valley U.S.-Japan Dialogue on the theme “Womenomics, the Workplace, and Women” held at Stanford University. The symposium was organized by Stanford University’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), Japan Program in partnership with the Clayman Institute for Gender Research. The US-Japan Foundation (USJF) also co-sponsored the event.

The objective of this symposium was to bring up issues which women are facing when it comes to workforce mobility and discuss future efforts to make concrete progress for women’s leadership and participation in Japan.

The symposium featured distinguished speakers from a variety of sectors, including tech, government and education from both Japan and the U.S.

Opening remarks were given by Professor Takeo Hoshi, Director of Shorenstein APARC



Japan Program, Stanford University, Mr. David Janes, Director of Foundation Grants, USJF and Dr. Toru Tamiya, Director of JSPS San Francisco.

Twenty one speakers participated in four panel discussions: “Women in the Silicon Valley Ecosystem- Progress and Challenges,” “Women in the Japanese Economy- Progress and Challenges,” “Women’s Advancement in the Workplace” and “Work- Life Balance and Womenomics”. Professor

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Machiko Osawa of Japan Women's University and Professor Nobuko Nagase of Ochanomizu Women's University presented on employment trends of highly educated women and effects of labor relation on women's mobility, respectively.

JSPS San Francisco will continually support such symposiums and the next one will be held in March 2017 in Berkeley, CA.



4th Gathering for Japanese Researchers in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 4th Gathering for Japanese Researchers in the U.S. on July 16, 2016 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.

The gathering is held twice a year for Japanese researchers to expand their networks through sharing their research, as well as viewpoints on differences in research environments and methods between the U.S. and Japan. This year for the first time, JSPS San Francisco expanded participation to all Japanese researchers in the U.S. including JSPS Fellows, Visiting Japanese Faculty and Resident Japanese Faculty and 44 people in total attended the event.

The meeting started with warm greeting from Dr. Toru TAMIYA, Director of JSPS San Francisco, and was followed by researcher introductions. Fourteen researchers then shared their current research activities in more depth.

We welcomed Dr. Shingo KAJIMURA, Assistant

Professor, University of California, San Francisco, Department of Cell and Tissue Biology, UCSF Diabetes Center as a special lecturer. He provided advice for researchers based on his extensive experience in the U.S., including how to allocate research efforts and how to run a laboratory.

After the presentations, the participants divided into 7 groups and discussed how to improve research environments in Japan.

The event concluded successfully with comments from Dr. Kajimura and Dr. Tamiya and the researchers continued to discuss their research and life over refreshments.

The next gathering for Japanese Researchers will be held on January 28, 2016 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.



Informational Session & Networking Lunch: Fellowships for Research in Japan

University of California, Berkeley
October 27, 2016



With the generous help of the UC Berkeley Research Development Office, over 30 researchers gathered at the UC Berkeley SkyDeck to learn about fully-funded fellowships to Japan and connect with fellow researchers.

The session drew a variety of researchers at different career stages from different fields, including late-term doctoral students, postdocs and professors in physics, space sciences, computer science, as well as public health, environmental design, and psychology, among many others.

For more details about the program, including fellowship details, please see below.

JSPS would like to thank JSPS fellowship alumni John Harte, UC Berkeley Professor, Energy and Resources group, and Saidur Rahman Bakaul, UC Berkeley Postdoctoral Researcher, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, for sharing their experiences researching in Japan. Their talk was a highlight of the session, providing valuable insight through their first-hand experiences.

JSPS also thanks Rai Koh, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow from Japan, UC Berkeley Department of Physics, and Satoshi Kabasawa, President of the Japanese Universities Network of the Bay Area (JUNBA), for their participation in the short networking event following the session. Their participation added depth to the discussion as they were able to share viewpoints about the state of research in Japan and make connections that could lead to international and interdisciplinary research collaborations.

JSPS San Francisco will continue to hold regular networking info sessions at universities around the Bay Area, and welcome all interested researchers to attend.

For more information about upcoming info sessions, as well as fellowship eligibility and other details, please contact the JSPS San Francisco Office:

fellowships@jpspsusa-sf.org

or visit us at our website:

<http://www.jpsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/>

JSPS San Francisco will hold next networking info sessions at the following sites!

When	Where
December 12-16, 2016	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (Moscone Center, San Francisco)
January 20, 2017	Stanford University
February 8, 2017	University of California, Davis

UPCOMING EVENT



JSPS Researcher Gathering

We will hold a gathering for Japanese researchers and JSPS alumnus.

Date: January 28, 2017, 1:00pm-5:30pm

Venue: David Brower Center (2150 Allston Way Berkeley, CA 94704)

Tentative Schedule: Presentation of research, Keynote Speech,

Group Discussion, Reception (Program will be held in Japanese)

To RSVP, please contact us: gathering@jpsusa-sf.org

UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Application deadline to JSPS:

January 4 - 11, 2017 *

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/application.html>

- Short-term for North American and European Researchers (1-12 months)

*The deadline is for the host institution to submit the application to JSPS; generally, applicants must submit documents to host institution 1-2 months prior to this deadline.

Application Deadline to NIH:

March 1, 2017

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers

<https://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/japan-fellowships.aspx>

- Short-term for North American and European Researchers (1-12 months)

- Standard (12-24 months)

INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S.

MAKOTO FUKUSHIMA



2016- | JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad

2015- | Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University

2014-2015 | Researcher, Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR)

2014 | Ph.D., Graduate School of Information Science,
Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST)

2011-2014 | JSPS Research Fellow (DC1), NAIST

2011 | M.Eng., Graduate School of Information Science, NAIST

2009-2014 | Student Intern, ATR

2009 | B.Eng., Division of Biophysical Engineering, School of Engineering Science, Osaka University

After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Engineering at Osaka University, Makoto Fukushima conducted doctoral research at Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR) and earned a Ph.D. in Engineering at Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST).

Currently he is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University in Bloomington. His main research area is computational neuroimaging and neuroscience, with a particular focus on brain connectomics. His Ph.D. study was the development of computational methods for estimating human brain activity and connectivity from non-invasive neuroimaging data. His current research interests include investigation of the temporal dynamics of functional brain networks and their relation to brain structure and function as well as behavior.

Why did you choose the U.S. to conduct your research?

This is because I decided to pursue my postdoctoral studies in the laboratory run by Prof. Olaf Sporns, who is best known as a pioneering researcher in brain network research, and his laboratory is located in the U.S.

When I was a doctoral student in Japan, I worked on developing computational methods estimating connectivity in brain networks and finally created a method uncovering directed neural current source interactions on whole-brain anatomical networks. After finishing my doctoral study, my research interest gradually shifted from developing methods estimating connectivity in brain networks to understanding complex patterns appearing in the estimated brain connectivity.

Since connectivity patterns in the large-scale brain networks are complicated, understanding their properties cannot be achieved by simply

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

drawing their network structure. For understanding properties of such large and complex networks, graph-theoretical analysis methods extensively applied in Network Science are useful. Prof. Olaf Sporns first introduced graph theoretical approaches to brain network studies and has led this emerging research area to date. He is, so to speak, a 'hub' in the brain network research community. His knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm about brain network studies boost my current study aiming to deeply understand functional roles of connectivity patterns in brain networks.

What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?

In my limited personal experiences, I have not yet felt any major significant difference in the research environments between the U.S. and Japan. This feeling might be due to the research environment of my previous research institute in Japan (ATR), where many top-class studies take place as international collaborations.

Another reason why I can pursue my studies without feeling significant US-Japan differences is because of the excellence of the administration systems and staff supporting international researchers in my host university in the U.S. (Indiana University).



However, this might indeed reflect an actual difference in the research environment between the U.S. and Japan. Although I have not experienced and therefore cannot properly understand the research environment for international researchers in Japan, I guess that the research environment for international researchers in the U.S. is more barrier-free than the research environment in Japan.

Other than potential visa problems and restrictions on application to U.S. research grants, I do not think that international researchers, or at least Japanese researchers, in the U.S. have major disadvantages in undertaking their own studies just because of their nationality.

How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?

I will continue pushing forward my studies on brain networks based on the experiences, knowledge, information, and personal connections that I have and will attain during my postdoctoral studies in the U.S.

In parallel, I hope that my experiences in the U.S. will help me in stepping into a new challenge in the future, e.g., starting new types of interdisciplinary studies or creating a new research area as has been accomplished by Prof. Olaf Sporns in brain network research.

I believe that my research experience in the U.S. will be of great importance for my future research career. I am very grateful to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the Uehara Memorial Foundation for their financial support of my postdoctoral studies in the U.S.

NEWS FROM JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES

Hokkaido University Research Team Predicts Virus Transmission

There is no doubt that global travel has contributed to accelerating the international spread of emerging infectious diseases.

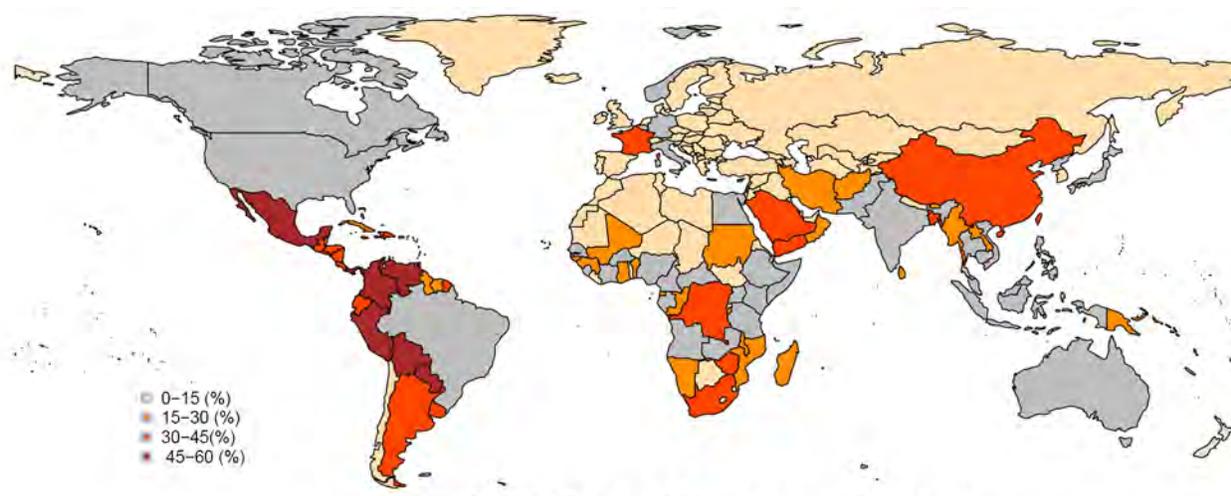
Coupled with epidemic modelling, prediction has been very successful by using airline travel network data in forecasting the global spread of epidemics. A research team of the Department of Hygiene, Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University (PI: Professor Hiroshi Nishiura) is working to anticipate the potential spread of emerging viruses, with special consideration of a virus' ability to be carried by lightly infected travelers and passed on to others.

Among all epidemic modelling subjects, the team is presently focused on spatiotemporal prediction of Zika virus transmission. In their recent study, they demonstrated that countries well connected with Brazil are at particularly high risk of importation. Moreover, countries in

subtropical and tropical climates with a history of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases are at the greatest risk of transmission after arrival in the country. This means many nations in South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean, face the highest risk of infection and should take possible preventive measures to stop transmission through mosquitoes.

The team offers a very exciting research environment for interested researchers, because all of the modelling studies of emerging diseases are conducted in real time during the course of an epidemic. The team is on a clear path to the eventual practical use of a prediction system that will greatly assist associated prevention and control programs.

Queries should be addressed to: Hiroshi Nishiura (nishiurah(at)med.hokudai.ac.jp)



Risk of local transmission

Figure: Global distribution of the risk of local transmission of the Zika virus.

Risk = probability of importation and local transmission through the end of 2016.

Deepening color reflects increasing risk (0-15, 15-30, 30-45 and 45-60%, respectively). Countries exposed to the virus prior to the outbreak in Brazil are shaded grey and have been left out of this calculation.

OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

Farewell to Our Senior Advisor

Naruhito Ishimaru received directions to return to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT) and left the United States in the middle of August. He had been a visiting scholar at the University of California, the Office of the President (UCOP) through the exchange program between UCOP and MEXT since August 2015. He also served as a senior advisor for the JSPS San Francisco Office.

At the university, he conducted a comparative study on the revenue structure of major higher education institutes in Japan and California, namely, the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, Stanford University and the California Institute of Technology. He then clarified differences and similarities not only between public and private institutes but also between research-intensive and education-intensive institutes. He is convinced that these findings will be beneficial to improving university management in Japan.

In his time in the U.S., he set foot in the District of Columbia and 18 states, including Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming, and was exposed to their culture and nature, deepening his understanding of American society. He strongly feels that human interaction fosters mutual understanding.

In just the past year, we saw a growing tendency to look inwards and prioritize domestic issues. This was apparent not only at the UK's EU referendum and in the US Presidential campaign but also with the elimination of financial aid for out-of-state students at the University of California. Mutual understanding is one of the key factors in keeping peace and producing prosperity in our society. Naruhito strongly believes that we need to remember the key role universities play in fostering mutual understanding through promoting human interaction.



(Right)

Introducing New Advisors

Yuki Nakamura arrived at JSPS San Francisco on July 1st as Advisor and will stay for about two years. He has worked at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan (MEXT) for about 10 years. He began his career in MEXT at the Private Education Institution Department. He was also in charge of two big policy changes - the reform of the Board of Education System and the introduction of educational continuity from primary through early secondary levels. Recently, he served as Senior Specialist and Unit Chief of the Research Promotion Bureau and was in charge of coordinating the policy and budget (about 400 billion JPY) for the promotion of academic and basic research.

His mission as Advisor of JSPS San Francisco is not only to advise the Director and other staff but also to commit to achieving the aims of JSPS through direct action. Arriving in July, he has already renewed an outline of California's higher education system and an overview of JSPS San Francisco activities for the benefit of office visitors. Moreover, he was an instrumental part of a recent fellowship info session

held at the University of California, Berkeley, presenting about the merits of research in Japan and outlining JSPS fellowships options. He hopes to contribute to the strengthening of relations between the United States and Japan.

Prior to taking this post, he has traveled to New York, Chicago, Hawaii and Guam but it's his first time visiting the West Coast. Since arriving, he has already been to San Jose, Santa Cruz and other Bay Area cities, Los Angeles (by car all the way from the Bay Area), and Las Vegas (by airplane of course) in addition to San Francisco. He is sincerely excited to explore California and experience many new things in the United States.



Ayako Shimizu arrived at the University of California, the Office of the President (UCOP) as a fellow on August 16th. UCOP and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT) have had an exchange program for more than 15 years. Her predecessors have researched about the UC system, which is one of the top university systems in the world, and their research has provided valuable leads for the improvement of higher education in Japan. Ms. Shimizu is the 15th fellow visiting UCOP. She is deeply interested in “the dialogue between universities and society”, and plans on conducting her research on this theme.



She started to work for MEXT in 2006, and has experienced various educational areas of work for more than 10 years. She was in the

International Affairs Division, National University Corporations Division, Early Childhood Education Division, and Government Teaching Curriculum Division at MEXT. At the National University Corporations Division, she was in charge of legal advice for national universities in Japan, which have been incorporated since 2002 and are still striving for success as independent institutions. She also worked for the Ministry of Finance in 2008-2009 and her most impressive experiences there were the analysis of the Greek Financial Crisis and the creation of legislation related to the Great East Japan Earthquake. She hopes to make use of all of these experiences to research at UCOP and to work for JSPS.

She has two little kids, who came to the U.S. with her. One is a 3-year-old son and the other is an 8-month-old daughter. They attend a nursery school near UC Berkeley while she is working. Her son has already started to speak English and sometimes surprises his parents. Their growth is the best stimulus for their mother's efforts to work.

TIPS FROM THE LOCAL STAFF

The Slippery Slope of Sarcasm Wait, seriously?

Okay so you've been working on your small talk and you've nailed a few amazing conversations at the coffee machine. Feeling kinda cool, kinda confident. Then you're at this networking event and you're talking about the recent Cal Stanford football game: "Cal really put in a great effort on Saturday."

...

Your mind races as you try to dissect the meaning. Is this person a Cal fan? Or a sarcastic Stanford supporter?

Sarcasm can be as devastating as it can be hilarious (oftentimes both), and while commonly used in American English, it can be one of the most difficult nuances to identify for the non-native speaker.

Sarcasm can be defined as the use of words that mean the opposite of what you really want to say, especially in order to insult someone, show irritation, or be funny (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sarcasm>).

According to reliable internet sources, there are seven types of sarcasm:

1. **Self-Deprecating:** overstated self-worthlessness

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"Sure, why not, it's not like I have anything worthwhile to do with my time anyway."

2. **Brooding:** bitter remark veiled in politeness

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"Yeah, that would be great, wasting time is actually one of my hobbies."

3. **Deadpan:** sarcastic remark delivered in dead seriousness so as to confuse/unsettle listener

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"Yes, yes I do. But can it wait until next year? I'm really busy until then."

4. **Polite:** sarcasm so subtle that listener doesn't recognize it at first

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"I'd love to! But only if you don't mind snoring."

5. **Obnoxious:** outright sarcasm that is designed to strongly perturb the listener

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"Yeah, I'd LOVE to pay \$20 to watch something I can see for free on Netflix in two months."

6. **Manic:** unnaturally happy sarcasm achieved by acting "up" or crazy

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"Oh my GOODNESS, YES! I would LOVE to waste three hours of my life in a theater with you!!"

7. **Raging:** exaggerated, violent sarcasm

"Do you want to go see a movie with me?"

"I'm sorry but I'd rather run in the rain for 100 miles with no shoes and a monkey on my back."

(<http://literarydevices.net/sarcasm/>)

While there is no magic formula for identifying sarcasm, here are a few tips on how to avoid being trapped in an awkward situation:

Check voice tone, facial expression, and actions.

When sarcasm is being used, they often counter what is being said. For example, in #5, perhaps the speaker is performing some eye-rolling, sighing, or speaking in a mocking tone. In #1 or #2, the speaker may take on a nonchalant tone accompanied by some shoulder-shrugging or head-tilting. Emphasis is often put on the words that hold opposite meaning, as in #5 and #6. In all of these examples, body language may play a role as well, and the second speaker may walk away after uttering the sarcastic remark.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Watch the reaction of others around you. Whenever possible, check to see how native speakers react to certain utterances. If they laugh or smile (or are horribly offended), it was probably sarcasm.

Ask. Don't be afraid to ask what was meant by an utterance, or if the speaker really meant what they said. Particularly with deadpan sarcasm and polite sarcasm, it can be hard to determine based on tone, facial expressions, and body language alone.

When it comes to using sarcasm, it can be a slippery slope, even for native speakers, as there are

countless connotations and everyone has different attitudes about its meaning and use. It may be best to avoid the use of sarcasm, or use it only around close friends or colleagues to whom you can explain what you meant in the event of a misunderstanding.

For better or for worse, sarcasm is a part of the American English vernacular, and familiarity with its usage can only improve the quality of your communications.

By Lauren Nakasato, Liaison Officer



JSPS Staff Voices: Impressions of Life in the U.S.

One of my favorite things here is the farmers market. You can find a farmers market in your vicinity every week, where local farm vendors sell products directly to customers.

We have farmers markets also in Japan. For example, the farmers market in front of United Nation University, Aoyama in Tokyo is one of the most popular ones.

However, what surprises me is the large number of markets here. There are more than 750 farmers markets even only in California!

Seasonal fruits, vegetables unfamiliar in Japan (how can they be cooked?), fresh eggs and cheeses from local farmers, and the smell of bread...

To meet and talk with the producers in person makes me feel that the foods are more delicious. I enjoy visiting farmers markets and experiencing local daily life.



By Yuki Hashimoto, International Program Associate



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