



Faculty Waseda University Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS)

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GSAPS Faculty = Expertise × Humanism

At the Waseda University Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), students are taught by diverse faculty members with high-level research skills and practical abilities, who conduct cutting-edge research in their field, and who have real world experience, such as in international institutions like UNICEF and the World Bank, in diplomacy, and in the mass media.

In this edition of Faculty Spotlights, we take a look at the attractive learning experience and the three specializations-‘Area Studies’, ‘International Relations’ and ‘International Development/Policy Studies’-offered by GSAPS through the voices of its teaching staff and their unique expertise and rich humanism cultivated from various backgrounds.

File 01

Seio NAKAJIMA

Field of specialization : Economic Sociology, Organizational Sociology, Cultural Sociology,
China, East Asia, Creative Industries in Asia

Researching China's film industry and filmmaker strategies

My field of specialization is sociology, with a particular focus on researching the contemporary Chinese film industry. In 2020, China's box office revenue surpassed the United States to become the highest in the world. While many commercial entertainment films are produced, there are also state-sponsored films, as well as independent and art films. I research the strategies producers and directors use while making films vis-à-vis the potentially competing logics of economy, politics, and art.

My desire to engage with Chinese culture

I was born in Hong Kong, so I have always had a broad interest in Chinese culture. I am also interested in other various cultural activities beyond China-such as film, dance, music, and art-so I wanted to be involved in these activities and explore their backgrounds in some way. There is a saying "If you do what you like, you will be good at what you do". In addition to doing research because it is important, I value the feeling of doing research about things I enjoy.

Reaffirming the importance of creative industries and the arts amid the COVID-19 crisis

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, there were various discussions about the necessity of culture and the arts. I think that listening to music and watching movies and TV dramas via online streaming while being forced to stay at home was a source of emotional support for many people. I think that the significance of art and culture has come to be understood anew because of COVID-19. I believe that research on creative industries and the arts will become increasingly important in the post-COVID era in order to build a sustainable society and to live as human beings.

Becoming a well-balanced creative thinker and action taker

I said that it is good to research what you like. But on the other hand, you also need to learn analytical perspectives, theory, and methodology that will enable you to look at the topics you are interested in with a bird's-eye perspective. It is also necessary to cultivate basic skills for empirical analysis, such as learning a language. I believe that such well-balanced abilities can be applied not only to academic research but also when working for companies, NPOs, and NGOs, and for market research and creative direction to see things with perspective and realize projects. I hope that students will develop both creative thinking and project execution skills.



File 02

Ken MITCHI

Field of specialization : Politics of Religion, Culture and Gender, Social Movements,
Politics in Southeast Asia

From Indonesian politics and Islam to feminist movements

My specialty is research on contemporary Southeast Asian politics, particularly Indonesian politics and Islam. I have studied a variety of phenomena from terrorism to cinema. Recently, my research has focused on Islam-based feminist movements and their relationship to politics. I am trying to discover new aspects of Indonesian politics by analyzing the enactment process of gender-related legislation. I have learned a lot from the ideas and activities of feminists. I am determined to question myself and society and tackle these issues over the next quarter century.

My intellectual curiosity about political change born from the Asian financial crisis

My purpose for entering graduate school was vague. I encountered Indonesia in college and began researching on the country as a case study which developed my interest. While studying abroad in Indonesia during my Master's program, I witnessed first-hand the process of the collapse of the authoritarian regime that had been in power for over three decades due to the Asian financial crisis. Since then, Indonesia has undergone a series of changes. Following this and thinking about how to put it into words became my job.

Conveying the real voices and ideas of Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia has a deep historical relationship with Japan, and Japanese companies have expanded economically in the region since the end of the war. Unfortunately, however, most of the information about Southeast Asia in Japan is superficial, and the mass media is only interested in "how Japan is viewed". I try to deepen my understanding and break down and explain the thinking of locals, such as their standards for making decisions, how it changes, and how this affects politics and society.

Research, investigation, and persuasive writing skills that will be useful in any field

Graduate school is essentially a place to learn how to write a thesis. Writing a thesis is a process of developing a theoretical structure based on existing arguments, gathering materials and evidence, and writing to persuade others. I believe that the skills needed in this process will be useful for students who work for a company or an NGO. Further, since GSAPS is an international school with students from diverse backgrounds, I want students to have discussions in multiple languages and experience the process of changing their established ways of thinking and perspectives.



Understanding the essence of diplomacy by grasping the big picture of China's diplomacy with each region

My fields of specialty are Chinese diplomacy, politics, and international relations, and I teach "Contemporary China Studies" and "Chinese Diplomacy and International Relations" at GSAPS. The theme of my research is "China's foreign policy and its policymaking." Usually, scholars conduct research on limited areas and/or themes. However, I have tried to illuminate the dynamism and essential features of China's foreign policy by incorporating not only economic and political but also cultural perspectives into my research on China's global policies toward many areas, including Japan-U.S.-China relations, China-Asia relations, China-Africa relations, China-Europe relations, and China-Middle East relations.

Identifying the factors behind China's foreign policy decision-making

Since the 1990s, China has achieved economic development through a shift in foreign policy. The background for this shift was the harsh economic sanctions imposed against China by Western countries due to the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. Meanwhile, China's top leader at the time, Deng Xiaoping, launched a socialist market economy, and China sought to fully participate in the global order. Whether this policy shift was due to a change in domestic policy or international pressure makes a big difference in analyzing the future of China's development and other countries' approaches toward it. I am interested in Chinese foreign policy decision-making and identifying the factors that drive it.

Knowing China's international influence and contributing to world peace

China has historically been, and still is, a major power and I believe it will continue to have global influence in the future. Therefore, I feel that the knowledge of China's foreign policy is always important and in high demand, and I believe that it is a field of research that can contribute to world peace. Through my research on China, I have visited and I have continued to interact with researchers from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Kenya. In that sense, it is an enjoyable and challenging field of research.

Helping students experience joy in finding their own conclusions and a sense of accomplishment

With regard to China's domestic issues and foreign policy, since there are a wide range of areas and topics, each student has their own area of interest. I help students find enjoyable and deep research themes from their own unique perspectives. I want them to strengthen friendships with members of the seminar and experience the joy and sense of accomplishment that comes from finding original conclusions through the research process. Many of my graduates are working as teachers in research professions and in global companies. I hope that students will make the most of their experience at GSAPS and become people who can contribute to world peace.

File

03

Rumi

AOYAMA

Field of specialization : International Relations, Political Science, Contemporary China's Foreign Policy, Politics in Contemporary China



Researching how to effectively use evolving digital technology in society

Today, digital technology is rapidly advancing. My research focuses on how these technologies can be utilized in society, mechanisms of diffusion, and their impact. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, digital technology played a crucial role in supporting society through telework, online conferences, online classes, and more. To build an efficient society, we will surely need to use digital technology even more. On the other hand, negative aspects of technology, such as fake news and cyberbullying, must also be addressed. I am researching these subjects to foster trust and a sense of security in digital society.

The impact of the rapid spread of information and telecommunications

I originally studied public utility economics. The impetus for my research on information and telecommunications came from the split-up of the US telecommunications company AT&T in the early 1980s. It was aimed at promoting business competition, but I learned about various analyses of telecommunications based on social sciences, which grabbed my interest in such research. At that time, telecommunications meant the telephone. However, as the Internet rapidly developed in the 21st century and came to serve as a social infrastructure supporting people, I experienced the digital revolution, so to speak, in my research. I am drawn to the opportunity to research the advancement of technology and its relation to society.

Eliminating the digital divide and contributing to the SDGs

How countries harness the power of digital technology will cause significant differences in national power. At the same time, if the difference comes from digital technology, the gap can be narrowed by providing it. So, it is important to support digitalization, including in developing countries, to bridge the digital divide. This will also help contribute to SDGs. In addition, adequate countermeasures are needed to deal with negative aspects, such as fake news, including enhancing information literacy, establishing fact-checking systems, and securing information diversity. Digital technology is a tool. I hope that my research serves its effective use and prevents it from being abused.

Building a new society in fields with few digital connections

Technology in this field with rapid advances becomes obsolete very quickly. Given this trend, I teach students to use theories and analytical tools to ensure universality and objectivity in research and conduct scientific analysis. I believe that all the answers are out there in the real world. The use of digital technology is a practical issue; thus, without observing how technology is used practically, we cannot see reality. Understanding reality helps lead us to the subsequent objective analysis. I want students to utilize digital technology in fields that are thought to have little connection to it and help create an advanced society.

File 04

Hitoshi
MITOMO

Field of specialization : ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and Media Studies, the Internet and Society

File **05**

Yasushi KATSUMA

Field of specialization : Development Studies (Human Development), International Human Rights (Child Rights), Human Security, Global Governance

Realizing the “rights of the child” in developing countries

I specialize in international human rights and human development, with focus on the human rights-based approach to development. With regard to international human rights, I am interested in investigating the factors that make it so difficult to realize children's rights in developing countries. My primary research interests connected with human development include global health diplomacy, with focus on infectious diseases, as well as global governance issues.

My research insights from child protection and humanitarian assistance overseas

When I was a child, I felt a bit constrained in a society that I believed did not place much value on diversity. When I was in elementary school, I started thinking “I want to leave Japan and challenge myself overseas,” so I went abroad for the first time in high school. After I completed graduate school, I had my first assignment as a UNICEF staff member in Mexico City. I was involved in child protection policies, including those for children in socially vulnerable situations being exploited in hard labor, which led me to think about the relationship between development and human rights. Later, I was transferred to the UNICEF Afghanistan office, where I was involved in humanitarian assistance. This further broadened my research interests.

Delving into academic knowledge from empirical field research

While it is important to learn specialized knowledge from textbooks, I emphasize empirical field research that reveals the real circumstances people face. The source of my passion for research lies in the absurdity, resentment, and sadness I felt on the ground in developing countries and my desire to use a cool head to pursue scholarly research, rooted in empirical research that can help solve real-world problems. I also focus on global governance, because while there are internationally agreed-upon arrangements and norms in multilateral diplomacy, such as those encoded in the United Nations, there are also great contention: between forces that seek to unite the international community through collaborative, cooperative action and those aiming to challenge and divide the existing order.

Developing students who can solve global issues

I want students to find a research theme that they are passionate about, and then calmly analyze it using their specialized knowledge. I hope that students will acquire the skills to discuss how global issues should be solved with both a “passionate heart” and a “cool head”. In my research seminar, students are encouraged to look at international cooperation for human rights and development from a public policy perspective. Many of my graduates go on to work in international organizations, government, NGOs, universities, and think tanks involved in public policy.

Considering sustainable and resilient societies

My specialty is environmental economics and policy studies. I teach about sustainable development, international environmental cooperation to realize it, environmental economics, and environmental policy. While researching how to use biological and environmental resources sustainably, I envision a mechanism and international framework for international cooperation to realize global sustainability for all of human society. Another major area of my research is the development of a resilient society that can withstand and recover from the various natural disasters that occur frequently.

Facing Japan's social issues in the wake of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident

In 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake caused the Fukushima nuclear accident. At the time, I was conducting research on solid waste management in Sri Lanka, and I was extremely shocked when I saw the images of the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant broadcast on TV by BBC World News. Until then, my main research themes had been environmental issues in developing countries and environmental cooperation, but as a Japanese social scientist dealing with environmental issues, I recognized that I had to address Japan's social problems. I started my research on sustainability and resilience as an extension of that.

The importance of an open dialogue among science, politics, and society

Many social problems, such as disasters and accidents, are caused largely by the fact that policies have been decided and implemented by only a few experts and people in government. It is important to change this established approach and think about how to solve problems while engaging in dialogue with experts from various positions, political administrators, and especially civil society and local communities. This concept is called trans-science. To better demonstrate the power of science in society, I think it is important to consider the relationship between science and society, as well as between experts and civil society, and to make decision-making processes more open.

Passing on intellectual assets to future generations and the importance and fun of learning

We inherit the intellectual assets that humanity has accumulated, add one or two new pieces of knowledge, and pass them on to the future generation. This is the role of universities. I want to convey to students the intellectual stimulation in studying, researching, and debating, as well as the fun of scholarship while knowing the rigors of academia and the limits of knowledge, and the importance of such things. Some studies are useful immediately, while others may be useful 100 or 200 years from now. I believe that these studies will create the richness of our society and its future.



File 06

SHUNJI
MATSUOKA

Field of specialization : Environmental Studies, Development Studies, Evaluation Studies, Disaster Recovery Studies, Risk Governance

Chikako UEKI

Field of specialization : Political Science, International Relations, Security Studies, International Relations and Security of East Asia, US-Japan-China Relations

Identifying past causes and ways to prevent war

I study the causes and prevention of war in the field of security in international relations. There are many tragic events in the world, and war is one of them. Unlike natural disasters, I believe wars can be prevented because they are committed by people against people. The causes of war include conflicts of interest, nationalism, changes in the balance of power, and misperceptions. My research aims to determine the impact of these factors from past wars and to consider ways to prevent war.

Starting to think about the pain people inflict on others and war in high school abroad

When I was in high school, I had a Jewish classmate. She was bright, fashionable, and popular. One day in the classroom, she found a magazine on the desk. On the cover was a Nazi swastika. She took a pen and, screaming and crying, drew over the cover until it was completely torn. Seeing this, I learned that people inflict pain and suffering on others that transcends generations, and I began to think about war. After returning to Japan, I studied international relations and became a newspaper reporter, and I then went to graduate school in the United States to further develop my ability to analyze security issues.

Pessimism about the future and optimism about war increase the risk of war

Unfortunately, the world is not heading in a secure direction. In particular, the conflict between the United States and China is intensifying, and there are even fears of a hegemonic war. If this were to happen, it would be a war between two nuclear weapon states and dragging the rest of the world. It is crucial to think about how to prevent this. The danger of war increases when pessimism about the future is combined with optimism about war. I am interested in and researching what factors and processes influence a country to perceive another as a threat or, as a country with which it can establish friendly relations.

A future that can be seen by leaving one's position and analyzing things objectively

One way to prevent war is to strengthen military power, but history shows that this alone will not protect the peace. My students come from about 23 countries. I encourage them to conduct their research from an objective perspective, looking down from the sky like God. My seminar alumni work for the United Nations, foreign ministries, defense ministries, military agencies, international NGOs, research institutes and universities, manufacturers, mass media, and consulting firms. They are all active in their respective fields, contributing to world peace and the prevention of war.





Economic development in developing countries and trade regulation

My areas of specialization are international trade and development economics. Originally, my interest was in economic development in developing countries, and through my research I found that participation in international trade occupies a very important place in development. Industrialization is necessary for developing countries to grow, and industrialization requires trade from the perspective of increasing exports. It has become easier for developing countries to participate in trade recently through Economic Partnership Agreements. However, it is not possible to develop an export industry without complying with regulations in importing countries. Therefore, I am currently conducting research with a particular focus on regulations and trade.

Advancing knowledge by participating in international organizations and joint projects

In graduate school, my research focused on trade and foreign direct investment. After obtaining my PhD, I had the opportunity to work for the World Bank where I was involved in a research project on the growth process in East Asia. There I researched development and economic development in East Asia, which reaffirmed the importance of trade in my mind. After returning to Japan, I worked at the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), where I participated in a joint project with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on regulation and trade. After moving to GSAPS, I continued my research on regulation and trade.

The impact of regulations and private standards on economic development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are very important now. For example, Goal 12 of the SDGs is "responsible consumption and production". To achieve this goal, the role of regulations and private standards is extremely important. How do regulations and private standards affect economic development, especially in developing countries? If we don't grasp this, it will affect the achievement of the SDGs. Until recently data has been scarce, but now that systematic data is finally available I believe this research will flourish in the future.

Developing human resources who can play an active role in international organizations for developing countries

In this field, students can learn about international trade, economic development, and its fundamentals. And by deepening our understanding of why phenomena are occurring in the real world, we can find out what we should do next. This kind of thinking is helpful not only for companies involved in trade, but also for those working in other fields. I have many contacts that I have gained through my experience at international organizations and as a consultant, and I hope that students will be able to use what they have learned through my teaching, become active in international organizations, and build a better future for developing countries.

File

08

Kaoru

NABESHIMA

Field of specialization : International Trade, Development Economics, Technological Innovation

Faculty Profile



File 01 / Seio NAKAJIMA

Field of specialization : Economic Sociology, Organizational Sociology, Cultural Sociology, China, East Asia, Creative Industries in Asia

Research theme : Cultural Sociology of Chinese Independent Cinema; Economic Sociology of the Contemporary Chinese Film Industry; Organizational Sociology of Creative Industries in Asia; Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Approach to Autonomous Driving and Electric Vehicles; the Role of Civic Media in the Age of Risk Society

[Professional background]

Visiting Associate, Preparatory Office of the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica (1996) / Senior Visiting Student, Department of Management, Beijing Film Academy (2003-2004) / Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2007-2013) / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2014-2019) / Director, Research Institute of Automobile and Parts Industries (RIAPI), Waseda University (2016-present) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2019-present)

Position held: Committee Member, "Committee on Sustainable Automobile Society", Society of Automotive Engineers Japan, Inc.



File 02 / Ken MIICHI

Field of specialization : Politics of Religion, Culture and Gender, Social Movements, Politics in Southeast Asia

Research theme : State and Society in Indonesia, Islam and Feminism

[Professional background]

Lecturer and Associate Professor, Faculty of Policy Studies, Iwate Prefectural University (2007-2017) / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2017-2019) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2019-present)

Positions held: Research Fellow, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Research Institute / Program Advisor, the Asia Center, the Japan Foundation



File 03 / Rumi AOYAMA

Field of specialization : International Relations, Political Science, Contemporary China's Foreign Policy, Politics in Contemporary China

Research theme : Chinese Foreign Policy and Domestic Decision-making, Japan-China-US Relations, China's Relations with the World and Major Countries/Regions, Regional Integration and Security in Asia, Cross-Strait Relations

[Professional background]

Assistant Professor and Associate Professor, School of Education, Waseda University (2000-2007) / Visiting Scholar, Stanford University (2005-2006) / Professor, Faculty of Education and Integrated Arts and Sciences, Waseda University (2007-2017) / Visiting Scholar, The George Washington University (2016-2017) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2017-present) / Visiting Scholar, Center for Strategic and International Studies (2021)

Positions held: Member of Board of Directors, Japan Association of International Relations / Member of Board of Directors, Japan Association for Asian Studies / Member of Board of Directors, Japan Association for Modern China Studies / Committee Member, Committee on the Outlook of Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century / Managing Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Contemporary East Asia* / Editorial Board Member, *Journal of East Asian Studies* and *Journal of China and Neighborhood Diplomacy* / Nihon Keizai Shimbun "Think!" Expert, Contributor to Mainichi Shimbun's Politics Premier "Opinion"



File 04 / Hitoshi MITOMO

Field of specialization : ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and Media Studies, the Internet and Society

Research theme : Socio-Economics and Impact Analysis of Digital Connectivity, Digital Applications as a Solution to Social Problems, Evaluation of Digitalization at Local Level

[Professional background]

Associate Professor and Professor, School of Commerce, Senshu University (1992-2000) / Professor, Graduate School of Global Information and Telecommunication Studies, Waseda University (2000-2009) / Visiting Professor, Stockholm School of Economics (2007) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2009-present) / Visiting Professor, Aalto University, Finland (2018)

Positions held: President, the Japan Society of Information and Communication Research / Vice President, International Telecommunications Society / Chair, Telecommunications Business Committee, Information and Communications and Posts Administrative Council, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan



File 05 / Yasushi KATSUMA

Field of specialization : Development Studies (Human Development), International Human Rights (Child Rights), Human Security, Global Governance

Research theme : Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Health, Human Rights Regimes and Governance in Asia, Human Security of Children and the Responsibility to Protect, Global Health Diplomacy & Governance

[Professional background]

Researcher, the Engineering Consulting Firms Association (1991-1995) / Research Intern, Banco Solidario (BancoSol), Bolivia (1995) / Staff Member, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [Mexico, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Tokyo] (1998-2006) / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2006-2008) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2008-present) / Visiting Scholar, The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University (2011-2012) / Visiting Researcher, l'Université libre de Bruxelles (2022-2023)

Positions held: Member of the Advisory Committee, UNDP Human Development Report / Vice President, Japan Society for International Development / Secretary General, United Nations Association of Japan

Faculty Profile



File 06 / Shunji MATSUOKA

Field of specialization : Environmental Studies, Development Studies, Evaluation Studies, Disaster Recovery Studies, Risk Governance

Research theme : Development and the Environment, International Development Cooperation and International Environmental Cooperation, Policy Evaluation

[Professional background]

Researcher, Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University (1988) / Lecturer and Associate Professor, School of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University (1988-1994) / Associate Professor and Professor, Graduate School of International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University (1994-2007) / Visiting Researcher, Malaya University (1996) / Visiting Researcher, American University (2000) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2007-present) / Positions held: Director, Fukushima Hirono Research Center for Future Creation, Waseda University / Chairperson, Study Committee on Dealing with Desertification, Ministry of the Environment, Japan



File 07 / Chikako UEKI

Field of specialization : Political Science, International Relations, Security Studies, International Relations and Security of East Asia, US-Japan-China Relations

Research theme : Causes and Prevention of War, Mechanism of Threat Perception Formation, Nationalism and War

[Professional background]

Staff Writer, Asahi Shimbun (1983-1991) / Visiting Scholar, Peking University (1998) / Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, Japan (2000-2007) / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2007-2008) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2008-present) / Research Affiliate, Security Studies Program, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2012-2015) / Position held: Member, Prime Minister's Council on Security and Defense Capabilities, Japan



File 08 / Kaoru NABESHIMA

Field of specialization : International Trade, Development Economics, Technological Innovation

Research theme : Economic Development of East Asian Countries, Innovation

[Professional background]

Development Research Group, the World Bank (2001-2009) / Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) (2010-2014) / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2015-2020) / Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (2020-present)

