

Foreword

Representing the Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies (ORIS) at Waseda University, I would like to introduce a new English language open-access academic journal called *Journal of Inter-Regional Studies: Regional and Global Perspectives (JIRS)*. This annual journal aims to promote the inter-regional studies of economic, social and cultural issues across regions.

A research wing of Waseda University, the ORIS was established to integrate international area studies at Waseda University. Asian studies, Japan-EU studies and Japan-U.S. studies used to be carried out separately at Waseda University under different organizational names until March 2015. The African research unit was newly created when the ORIS was established. We have recognized the needs and importance of inter-regional studies. Currently, 23 research institutes are under operation for the ORIS to academically study global issues. The ORIS research programs include broad studies on “the possibility of effective inter-regional relationships and co-existence between the nations of Asia, North and South America, Europe, and the Middle East.”

The ORIS and the preceding research organization on EU studies had published an English language journal called *Japanese Journal of European Studies (JJES)* from 2013 to 2017. This JJES published high quality academic papers for policy discussions on various issues related to European and EU politics, economies, society, history, and science and technology. The JIRS is succeeding to the tradition of publishing academically excellent papers and manuscripts achieved by the JJES under a new journal name.

In addition to invited articles, we will publish peer-reviewed articles, research notes, and book reviews. This first volume includes invited articles and peer-reviewed articles on contemporary issues such as globalism and populism, Brexit, and the refugee crisis.

This is our sincere hope that this journal provides an academic platform for useful policy discussions on regional and inter-regional issues. For any inquiries, please contact us any time.

Masahiko Gemma
Waseda ORIS Director
