

East Eurasian Studies Project

"Culture Clash and Well-Being in East Eurasia"

Translated from Japanese, 25 May 2022

Our project aims to understand, in terms of cultural clashes and well-being, how the global world has been impacted by East Eurasia and the presence of the great powers that are China and Russia. East Eurasia here refers to a loose regional concept centered on China, Russia, and the neighboring Mongolia, Korean Peninsula, and Japan, as well as the wider areas adjacent to or involved in the region. While taking into account the geo-political aspects of globalization, we will focus on the people living in China, Russia, and neighboring countries to examine how religious, cultural, economic, political, and other activities have given rise to culture clashes as well as coexistence in the context of modern and contemporary history. We try to identify the social context of their hopes for the realization of their own well-being.

Four research teams explore the issue focusing on the following topics. **(I) Low birthrate, aging population and conflicts** (Research Center for Promoting Intercultural Studies, Kobe University): Unlike the 20th century, population decline due to low birthrate and aging population is becoming a pull factor for immigration and migrant labor, promoting multiculturalization and a new source of conflict. **(II) Religion and subcultures** (East Eurasian Studies Unit, National Museum of Ethnology): In Russia, Mongolia, and China, traditional religions were "revived" at the end of the 20th century, and Christian missionary work in Korea has expanded within the region and around the world. The historical and social characteristics of the sense of hope that emanates from this region will also be examined in terms of the development of local subcultures and the entertainment industry. **(III) Minority rights and media** (Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University): Climate change and economic development have impacted the areas traditionally inhabited by minorities and indigenous peoples, who have been influential in the policy making of the United Nations and other international organizations and have been working in solidarity with each other across national boundaries. By highlighting the role of various media, it will reveal how globalism is created by minorities. **(IV) Trans-border, Migration and Gender Studies** (Slavic Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University): Following developments in China's migration and emigration to Africa and the Arctic region under One Belt, One Road, we will explore the nature of various areas (communities) from the perspective of gender-based divisions of labor and the globalization of gender norms. We will also examine the movement of people and goods during the coronavirus pandemic (post-covid) in contemplating the state of the region.

