

Urban Ethics under Intergenerational Imbalance

Principal Investigator Takayuki Kira, Utsunomiya Kyowa University,
Assistant Professor

Vice Investigator: Chonabayashi Ryo, Soka University, Assistant Professor

Co-Investigator: Tomofumi Takagi, Hitotsubashi University, Ph.D Student

Co-Investigator: Koichi Sakai, Oxford University, M.A.

Co-Investigator: Kotoko Madono, Kyoto University, Ph.D Student

Co-Investigator: Kento Nambu, Beijing University, , Ph.D Student

Co-Investigator: Kei Takahashi, Minnesota University, Ex-Researcher

[Abstract]

In this research project, we saw the rapid aging situation as "intergenerational imbalance," and investigated its moral implications to urban life. Principal investigator Kira managed the total plan of the research. On this report, Kira examined the political circumstance that is often critically described as "silver democracy" or "gerontocracy" from a legal philosophical viewpoint and proposed the necessity to re-orientate multiple generations as "intergenerational agencies" appropriate to each issue on the condition of the value plurality in urban life. Kira published three other related papers and held some presentations at academic conferences, lectures for citizens, and "philosophy cafe." with co-investigators. We organized a session "Urban Environmental Ethics" at 10th International Conference on Applied Ethics, 28 October 2016, Hokkaido University. Kira, Chonabayashi, and Takagi presented each interest in English. It was significant for international communication on this subject.

Vice Investigator Chonabayashi comprehensively surveyed the discussions of urban environmental ethics and clarified the merits and limitations of various standpoints about whether we should respect "the original intentions of the past generations," analyzing the famous research of Avener de-Shalit, etc. In addition, four co-investigators wrote short essays about city lives in the world. The co-investigators' majors are so various as archaeology, Islam historical thoughts, modern Chinese literature, and physics. This academic diversity made a multi-dimensional contributions to this research.