

Preface

Through an analytical approach embracing and integrating the two perspectives of gender equality and multicultural conviviality the Global COE Program entitled “Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization” (established in the field of social sciences, with Miyoko Tsujimura as the program director and in cooperation with the Institute of Social Sciences of University of Tokyo) established in 2008 at Tohoku University attempts to present solutions for the broad set of problems emerging in a world of advancing globalization. Furthermore, as its primary purpose, this GCOE program aims to cultivate young researchers able to generate deep understanding and effective answers addressing the problems of globalization (for further details please visit the GCOE program’s homepage available at <http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/gcoe>). In the second year of this project we were also able to welcome the participating students of our Cross-National-Doctoral Course (CNDC) allowing the GCOE program to unfold its full research capacity.

To aid in achieving its stated purposes and objectives this GCOE program has launched a journal which publishes its academic research results. Adopting the first letters from the GCOE’s program title “Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality”, this periodical has been named “GEMC journal.” This year, we have published two English and three Japanese issues of this journal.

The journal is divided into two sections. The first section includes invited articles requested by members of the journal’s editorial board and features papers based on presentations held at one of the GCOE’s workshops, as well as research articles from program members. In order to provide young researchers the opportunity for publishing their research work, the second section of this journal features submitted and reviewed articles. The journal accepts articles related to the GCOE’s program regardless of the author’s academic status and qualifications, and invites the authors of articles considered for publication to present their work at a workshop and to share the results of this research work.

All submitted papers are subject to a review process conducted by a referee commission established within the editorial board of this journal. Given the broad nature of themes the submitted papers cover, this review commission evaluates the articles by inviting additional opinions from anonymous experts from each article’s academic field. Based on these evaluations the referee commission aims to provide a firm and fair review process. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all external experts who have been kind enough to provide their help in offering their opinions on the various articles.

Accompanying the advancement of globalization, the differences created by gender, nationalism, community and generation have caused severe and structurally entangled negative effects for society. This GCOE program was initiated to support the seeking of ways to overcome these negative effects and to construct a society sharing a plurality of cultural values. In 2008, the year of the GCOE program’s founding, the world was been dominated by the globalization issue of the financial crisis spreading from its epicenter in the United States of America. Yet, while this crisis has created challenges of a complex and immediate nature, this GCOE program wishes to create through academic ventures reliable and sound research building the foundations for addressing these challenges. Therefore, we hope that this GEMC journal represents one effort in this endeavor.

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