

■ Background

Meiji University is a pioneer in women's higher education. This legacy can be traced back to 1929 when the university opened a women's school and offered special courses on law and commerce for female students. Many alumnae became jurists including Japan's first female lawyers and judges. This women's school, later a women's junior college, played a significant role to promote women's participation in society. The junior college was closed down in March 2004 with its role completed, but its legacy was succeeded by the School of Information and Communication. Gender Center was founded at this new School in April 2010 to further explore gender issues and promote gender equality in the present and future. Since then the center's activities expand and bring results.

■ Research Projects (Excerpt)

- Women in professional occupations
- Diversity management in organization
- Postwar women's magazines and their impact on lifestyle
- Sexualization of male and female bodies in media
- Representation of couples in French and Japanese media

We at gender center conceptualize our activities to discuss issues related to social roles and cultural images of *gender* and *sexuality*. In doing so, we emphasize the importance of *diversity* as an ideal to achieve a society in which various ways of life are accepted and *social recognition* as a key for forming one's identity.

■ Philosophy

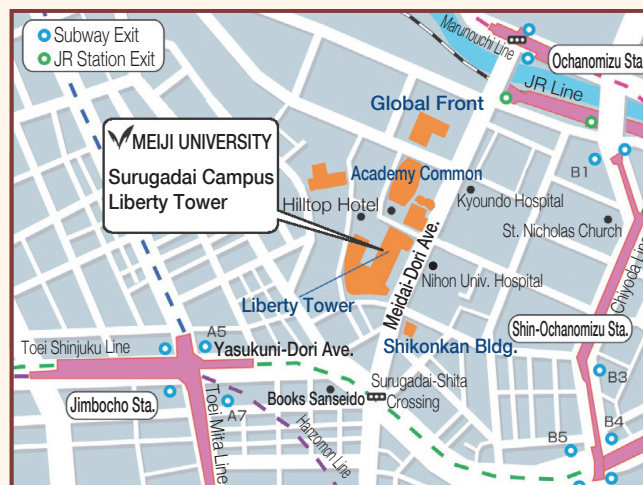
With the advent of a growing global information age, our societies are undergoing profound economic, political, and socio-cultural changes both within and beyond national borders. Gender as a notion increases in its significance in this context of social change providing a perspective that allows us to address increasingly important issues such as various forms of inequality and oppression as well as fixed gender roles and to develop new ideas and concepts for creating a peaceful, happy society. It is our urgent task to work towards achievement of a harmonious society in which people and groups with diverse cultural backgrounds may respect differences among them. For this purpose, we apply our school's flexible, future-oriented academic stance to promote a society where diversity is recognized.

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Gender Center

School of Information and Communication
Meiji University

Gender

Diversity

Recognition

Key Concepts at Gender Center: Gender, Diversity, Social Recognition

Gender

Gender refers to what makes of our sex culturally and socially, which cannot be determined solely by the biological notion of sex.

Fashion and gender in media spaces

The effect of gender on behavior

Cultural analysis of kawaii and gender

Gender in popular culture and its reception

Eating disorder and gender

Popular culture and sexuality – otaku and 2-D anime

Gender norms in trans/national media spaces

Stereotypical body images (sexy women, muscular men)

Work-life-balance and the normalcy in Japanese employment

A gender track today – care work, management, education

Recognition

Recognition refers to positive acceptance of others by judging them on the basis of mutually agreed norms. It can be achieved in various ways in contemporary societies – accepting others as those emotionally bounded, members of an equal, liberal society, or people who belong to the same value community.

What is social recognition?

Child poverty – How to break the chain of poverty

What's wrong with black companies and exploitation of workers and underestimation of commitment?

Household labor – how can it be recognized?

Solidarity in labor and performance evaluation

Social power of appearance

Social participation of the challenged

Living as LGBTs

For an inclusive society

Disability and gender

Diversification of family forms – nuclear families, step families, single-parents

An inclusive society for all with diverse backgrounds?

Living together – shared housing, collective housing, group housing

How is a society and an organization without any discrimination and exclusion possible?

Diversity

We see diversity as an important condition for our mutual support and harmonious coexistence. It is a touchstone issue for a today's mature democracy how we cope with difficulties arising from differences regarding gender, sexuality, disability, culture, religion, ideology.

■ Topics of The Previous Events (Excerpt)

- Symposium: Labor and recognition: social justice from a gender perspective (2010)
- Seminar series: Work-life balance, promoting women and Japan's economic revitalization (2012)
- Seminar series: Marriage and female employment in international comparison (2013)
- Special lecture: Decolonising gender – Understanding masculinities, femininities and gender relations on a world scale (2014)
- International interdisciplinary symposium: Knowledge construction through the lens of social and cultural diversity (2014)
- Seminar series: Children and childhood in Edo period (2015)
- Seminar series: Otaku and gender (2015)
- International symposium: Gender equality and diversity in research environment (2015)
- MEIJI ALLY WEEK (2015)
- Seminar series: Recovery from anorexia – From a perspective of clinical sociology (2016)
- Film screening and talk live: Documentary, Chizuru (2016)
- Freeheld (2016)
- Seminar series: Mainstream culture and LGBT (2016)



Symposium: Labor and recognition



Seminar series: Marriage and female employment in international comparison



International interdisciplinary symposium in Thailand



Seminar series: Recovery from anorexia



Gender gradation fashion show in MEIJI ALLY WEEK