Sociology is the study of human society, the relationships among people in various settings. Rikkyo College of Sociology has consistently contributed to Japan’s sociological studies for the past six decades. We deal with a wide range of research topics such as everyday social interactions, families, cities and local communities, social stratification and inequalities, social divisions of gender, age, and ethnicities, social and religious movements, consumerism and environmental problems, societies and cultures of Asian and other countries, global communities and migrations, journalism, media and communication technologies. We offer trainings in qualitative and quantitative research methods covering from fieldwork to statistical analysis and advance critical thinking for understanding the globalizing world in which we live. Our approach to sociological education and training gives students generic skills in searching for social problems, analyzing them in a wider social context, and suggesting innovative solutions on the basis of scientific evidence along with the basic competency for living their lives as global citizens.
Faculty Members

Department of Sociology

HAGIWARA, Natsuko, Professor
Environmental Sociology, Gender Studies, Nonprofit/Non-traditional Studies

IWAMA, Akiko, Professor
Sociology of the Family, Minority Issues, Social Evaluation

LEE, Minjin, Professor
Labor Sociology, Comparative Study on Industrial Relations

MAEDA, Hiroki, Professor
Sociology of Health and Medicine, Ethnomedicine

MATSUMOTO, Yasuhito, Professor
Urban Sociology, Social Network Analysis

MURASE, Yoichi, Professor
Social Stratification, Industrial Sociology, Social Science Methodology

NISHIYAMA, Shihwa, Professor
Urban and Regional Sociology

NOHO, Yoshikai, Professor
Sociology of Welfare and Community Policy

OSA, Yukie, Professor
Gender Studies, Human Security Studies

YOSHIZAWA, Natsuko, Professor
Gender Studies, Social Science Theories

KATAKAMI, Heijiro, Associate Professor
Sociological Theories, Sociology, Communication, Cultural Critique

OGURA, Yasutugu, Associate Professor
Life Story Studies, Sociology of Life

WAKITA, Aya, Assistant Professor
Sociology, Gender Studies, Social Research

YABUKI, Yosuke, Assistant Professor
Gender Studies, Social Research

Department of Contemporary Culture and Society

ABE, Osamu, Professor
Environmental Sociology, Education for Sustainable Development (SD)

ISHII, Kayoko, Professor
International Sociology, Ethics

KOIKE, Yasuhiti, Professor
Sociology of Religion

MIZUKAMI, Tetsuo, Professor
Migration Studies, Urban Sociology

SEKI, Raku, Professor
Sociology of Environment, Sociology of Community

TANAGA, Koichiro, Professor
Urban Sociology, Sociocultural Structure, Human Security

KIMURA, Mitsuka, Associate Professor
Cultural Anthropology, Migration and Diaspora Studies, Area Studies (Ethnic Minority in China and Taiwan, Chinese Diaspora)

KOIZUMI, Motohiro, Associate Professor
Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Art, Cultural Policy Studies

OTA, Masako, Associate Professor
Urban Studies, Human Geography, Gender Studies

SADAKANE, Hidemitsu, Associate Professor
Consumer Sociology, Sociology of Education, Contemporary Sociology

SUNAGA, Masafumi, Assistant Professor
Gender Studies, Core Studies, Cultural Studies, Ethnology

TANABAKI, Yosuke, Assistant Professor
Sociology of work, Value Studies
Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology offers various lectures on a wide range of topics: sociological theories and research methods, social interactions in everyday life, families, health, gender, occupations, social stratification, local communities, public policies, and global social changes. We also offer small classes of special seminars in which students pursue their own research interests, advancing their individual sociological inquiries and completing B.A. theses with intensive interactions with mentors. Our program is designed to give students professional skills for discovering social issues, analyzing them sociologically, considering critically, and suggesting practical solutions. Department of Sociology facilitates students to acquire seminal abilities to live in the changing world.

Department of Communication and Media Studies

We live in the media-mediated world. Already a century ago, when Lippmann introduced the notion of pseudo-environment, mass communication media were highlighted in connection with people's construction of a subjectively and biasedly abridged mental image of the world. Today we come into life with the flood of innumerable voices through social media. In order to understand the structure and function of this media-mediated world and our lives in it, the Department of Communication and Media Studies provides various lectures and seminars: information society, history of media, democracy and journalism, global communication, media industry, social media, alternative journalism, media literacy, journalistic reporting and writing, media internship, and so on. Our aim is to progress a sense of civic responsibility in the advanced information society, and to foster future media professionals who serve the public in the labyrinth of the digital era.

Graduate School of Sociology

How to Participate with Sociological Knowledge in the Global Community

The Rikkyo Graduate School of Sociology was founded nearly six decades ago to cope with societal needs to understand the changing society in which people, groups, organizations interact with each other. It is one of the largest schools of sociology in Japan. We have eminent specialists in various fields not only based upon sociological discipline but also upon the related areas. Our competence lies in the study of: sociological theories, qualitative and quantitative research methods, social interaction, social stratification, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social gerontology, family, religion, politics, social movements, industry, consumer society and consumerism, city and community, migration, environmental problems and education, media, journalism, science, technology and society (STS), cultural anthropology, cultural studies, and so on.

In addition to seminar classes dealing with the above topics, the School provides research programs based upon active learning, including quantitative data analysis and fieldwork in overseas locations. We offer intensive courses to complement the analytical skills of students, and with dedicated supervision to ensure the innovative and high-profiled completion of Master theses and Doctoral dissertations. All our graduates are expected to actively participate in the globalized community. Our aim is that our PhDs will be deemed to contribute significantly to sociological studies worldwide.