

LETTER



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Introducing the student-led venture “Tokyo Policy Review”

The *Tokyo Policy Review* is a public policy journal run by students from the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP). Founded in 2021, we strive to create a platform for knowledge sharing by providing our readers with valuable insights across a wide range of policy topics. Accessible at: tokyopolicyreview.org

We started the *Review* with the goal of serving as an enriching addition to student life at GraSPP. By complementing the academic offerings at GraSPP, our programs seek to equip students with complementary skills in writing and communication that build on the rigorous academic training we receive on analyzing policies and their implications.

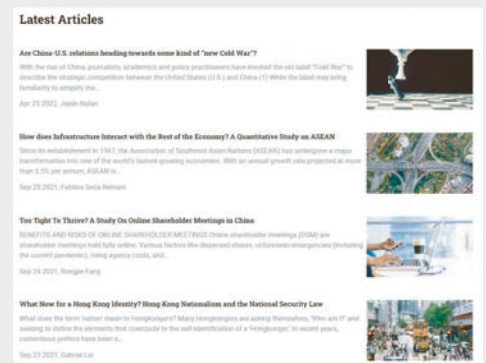
We also provide students with avenues for career development by cultivating relevant job market skills and expanding their professional networks. The *Review* has hosted a workshop on crafting a resume and a panel on careers at major international organizations. Our future programmes will continue to build on this, with the ambition of improving the competitiveness of GraSPP students in the policy careers market.

Furthermore, the *Review* has also been hosting a series of lunch-hour seminars where students, faculty, and alumni discuss their research and professional experience in a more casual setting outside the classroom. We have hosted sessions with Dr. Naomi Aoki on discussing vaccine acceptance in Japan, Dr. Quentin Verspieren on the importance of space development and policy, and fellow GraSPPer Jaydn Nolan on the AUKUS Security Pact.

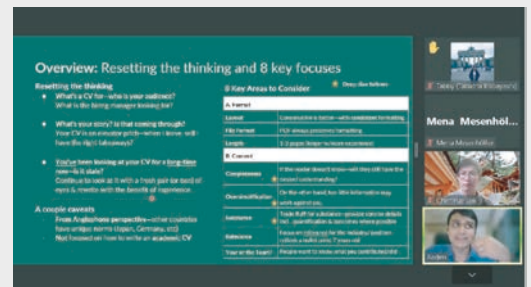
The *Review* is seeking written contributions from students, policy professionals, and researchers on policy-relevant topics and subjects. We have featured a wide range of articles on pertinent affairs, from the economic impact of infrastructure spending to analyses of security policy in the Asia-Pacific region. We welcome submissions from all, including authors who may not be affiliated with the University of Tokyo. Writing for us is an opportunity to showcase your work to a broader audience.

As the newest student-led venture at GraSPP, we are keen to explore opportunities to collaborate with students, faculty, and alumni to expand our offerings to the School. Whether it is as a panel speaker or getting your work featured in the *Review*, feel free to contact us with your ideas at tokyopolicyreview@gmail.com; we look forward to collaborating with you!

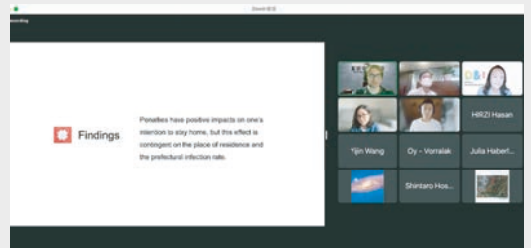
Tokyo Policy Review Team



The TPR website



Career Workshop



Brown bag seminar

No. 17

Murmurs and Musings

Daiji KAWAGUCHI

My area of specialization is labor economics and the particular theme I am currently analyzing with a great deal of interest is the relationship between new technologies and labor.



While the introduction of new technologies can help to improve productivity and enrich our lives, concerns have also been voiced that technology causes some people to lose employment opportunities and further exacerbates economic disparities. I am analyzing the reality of the situation and the actual impact that the introduction of technology has on employment, using the introduction of robots and AI as examples.

With regard to the introduction of robotic technologies, together with Daisuke Adachi of Aarhus University, Denmark, and Yukiko Saito of Waseda University, I have been analyzing the impact that the introduction of robots has had on employment at production sites, using Japanese data from the 1970s until very recently. Analysis outcomes show that the introduction of robots lowered the prices of products such as automobiles, and the resulting expansion of production exceeded the impact of robots replacing workforce labor, therefore serving not to reduce employment, but rather increase it.

In terms of the introduction of AI, together with my GraSPP colleagues Hitoshi Shigeoka and Yasutora Watanabe, and also Kyogo Kanazawa of the Cabinet Office, I am analyzing how AI-based road navigation systems introduced in taxis have changed the productivity of taxi drivers. We are focusing particularly on how the impact on productivity varies according to driver skills, and are working to clarify the impact that the introduction of AI has on skill disparities.

Through these studies I hope to be able to find a general mechanism that can assess the impact that new technologies have on labor.

Course Report

No. 18

2nd year, International Public Policy Program Kazuya Hirokawa

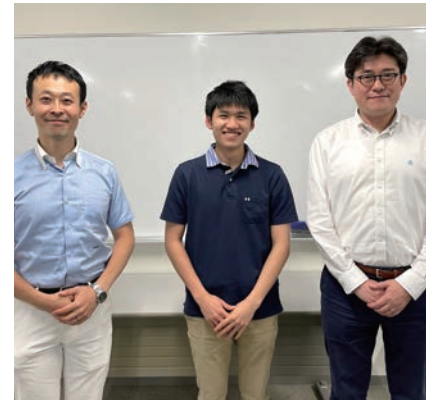
Run jointly by Profs. Kawaguchi and Masaki, “Case studies: Causal inference for policy evaluation” is a practical class that enables students to apply academic knowledge and methodologies to solve issues in the administrative field.

With a view to analyzing and solving issues faced by the local governments that are our clients, in the class, a team of students with knowledge of econometrics works together to formulate a research plan, engage in data analysis, and propose solutions. As this is commissioned research from real clients and in view of the fact that it is an intensive course lasting only a semester, from AY2022 it has been raised to the level of a Capstone course, and the number of credits has been increased from two to four.

The themes for this course are determined by the students themselves, based on an awareness of the multiple issues being faced by the client. In the previous academic year, our team conducted a quantitative analysis on the theme: “Does the COVID-19-related third-party certification system for food and beverage establishments have an infection prevention effect and economic maintenance effect?” As we are often consulted about urgent policy issues there are few precedents for analysis and it can be difficult to devise an appropriate analytical framework, but nonetheless, these are issues that have a major impact on government administration practices, which is what makes the course feel so rewarding.

What makes this course so good is that we can work directly with local governments to engage in analysis and submit proposals. This presents a truly valuable opportunity to test the applicability of the analytical methods and policy-making methods we have learned in a classroom environment in a professional-oriented course that fosters human resources capable of bridging academia and administrative practice. This is truly a meaningful course in that after it has concluded we receive inquiries not only from the clients’ local governments, but also from other related government ministries and agencies.

Prof. Masaki who takes the course is on dispatch from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and his tenure is due to end after the first semester of AY2022. Although the outcome of the course is therefore unclear, I hope that Capstone courses like this one will be continued and enhanced in the future.





Julia Haberl (MPP/IP 1st Year)

— Could you tell us about the story of your passion for East Asia?

Currently, I am a first-year Campus Asia student pursuing a double degree at Peking University.

It all started with a Chinese book I came across when I was 14 years old. I was fascinated by the Chinese characters (kanji) in that book, and with the advice and support of my parents and teachers, I began to study Chinese. On the recommendation of my Chinese tutor, I was awarded a Chinese Government Scholarship to study the Chinese stream of International Economics and Trade at Fudan University right after Austrian high school. I then studied Trade Management specifically aimed at Asia back in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, which brought me to Japan as an exchange student respectively to Hong Kong for six months internship back in 2019.

— How did you decide to join GraSPP?

One reason I decided on pursuing a master's degree is the prospect of working as a trade commissioner. Before joining GraSPP, I was working for a business consultancy in Frankfurt respectively at a marketing department of an internationally operating company headquartered in Switzerland. However, this was just temporary because I knew already from an early age that my future is in (East-)Asia. ☑ Ever since I did an internship at the German Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, having some truly illuminating talks, I believed that representing and promoting the Austrian economy worldwide would allow me to bridge my great passion for networking across borders with my background in trade.

Joining GraSPP was my first choice, not least because of the Campus Asia Program. Given my background, passion, and interest in those countries involved, I identified myself immediately with it and here I am.

— I understand that you finally made it to Japan two months ago. How is your school life in Japan so far?

I would describe my student life at GraSPP and life in Tokyo in general as very diverse: People to meet, places to go, and opportunities to grasp. I am enjoying campus life a lot, taking as many in-person classes as possible, after all the struggles I've been through in the past six months taking courses from my home country and adjusting to the time difference.

So far, my personal highlight was the opportunity to do an internship at ADBI, supporting my supervisor in editing a publication on Social Safety Nets in Developing Asia, which was very thought-provoking beyond the scope of the internship.

— What would you like to try while in GraSPP?

Since I am studying at Peking University from next semester, my remaining time at GraSPP is quite limited and I am happy to say that I managed to do what I was planning to, such as the ADBI internship and courses I absolutely wanted to take.

However, given the current circumstances, should I not be able to attend classes physically in China but stay in Tokyo instead and take courses online, I would be very intrigued to join the university's baseball team as I did during my exchange semester at Sophia University (once in a lifetime experience which taught me so much more about cross-culture management and Japanese culture, than any university course could have ever taught me).

— What is your plan after graduating?

Admittedly, every now and then I find myself confronted with the same question: After graduation, shall I return to the private economy, where a couple of concrete job offers are already waiting in my favorite corner of this world, or better follow my dream of a diplomatic career?

In any case, I believe that no matter whether in the private economy or working for the government, the knowledge, network, and experience acquired during my time in Japan, China, and Korea will stay with me forever.



Singh Faye, Visiting Lecturer, Receives the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette

In order to achieve academic excellence, it is essential to create an environment that fosters the development of a student body that can grow intellectually, socially and ethically, and is therefore able to pursue successful and fulfilling careers. GraSPP has made this goal its objective. It exerts all efforts in instilling in its students the significance of academic excellence, challenging them to strive for it within the framework of academic integrity, which involves all acts upholding ethical values and maintaining a good moral character within the academic environment. Such a mission is brought to salience in its overview in these terms, "GraSPP aims to train students so that they are able to discover issues confronting modern society, to plan public policy and systems to cope with such issues from a global perspective, and to transform students into experts ready to serve as public officials who are capable of communicating and consensus building."

(https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/academics/grad_public_policy.html)

I couldn't agree more. Since I have started teaching here in 2011, I have been blessed with such academic excellence around me. In effect, throughout my tenure, the students have always exhibited just that. Intellectually, they possess amazing capacities for critical thinking and the ability to understand, analyze, and synthesize information, deductively, inductively, matching analogous reasoning ability, scholarly curiosity, and problem-solving skills. They excel, indeed, in their academic endeavors and contribute their best with top-notch abilities to the success of the seminars when performing their academic undertakings such as participating in classes, conducting research projects, giving presentations, writing essays, sitting exams, taking on leadership roles, only to cite a few. Nested near *Akamon*, the famous red gate of the University of Tokyo, GraSPP is one of the most cosmopolitan graduate schools in Japan, if not to say Asia, "with 50% of the student body composed of international students from over 30 different countries (both advanced and emerging economies)" (*idem*) granted scholarships after rigorous tests by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, JICA among other household names. I am blessed to be the English teacher of the Master of Public Policy International Program (MPP/IP) Summer Preparatory Program that these brilliant scholars attend every year since 2012 supported by the dedicated GraSPP Team whose relentless efforts are visible in the success of the programs. I commend their diligence and their efficiency in building a culture of community and inclusion that



engages with, learns about, and respects individual differences, diversity of opinions, and international cultures.

GraSPP has contributed, in no small part, in my being honored with **The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon**, and in this way, will leave an indelible mark in me.

Much appreciation.

Singh FAYE Visiting Lecturer



TOPICS

GraSPP is currently accepting applications for the following executive programs.

- Innovation Governance Expert Program

Deadline: September 30, 2022

<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/news/2022-07-04-36179/>

- Economic Security and Corporate Risk Management Executive Program

Deadline: August 30, 2022

<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/education/extension-program/esepp/>

Editor's Postscript

On August 15, 2022, Japan will commemorate the 77th anniversary of the end of World War II. This year represented another milestone in that it marked the 50th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa, when administrative authority over Okinawa Prefecture was restored to Japan on May 15, 1972. However, looking around the world today we see that the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia, as well as other wars and conflicts remain ongoing. We would all like to start with the things we that we are capable of doing, based on the strong desire that each person's day-to-day life, the places they reside with their loved ones, and the time they spend together, can all be protected. (**Editorial Team**)

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