

新入生・在学生の皆さんへ

大学院社会学研究科 委員長

岡原正幸

2020年4月1日に、大学院社会学研究科に入学された皆さん、まずは、お祝い申し上げます。私たちの仲間になってくれてありがとうございます。入学式は秋に延期されてしまいました。皆さんの中には、卒業式も出席することなく、卒業証書を手にするしかなかった方も多いかもかもしれません。授業の始業は4月末です。授業の形態も例年とはかなり異なります。オリンピック、パラリンピックが開催されると信じて疑わなかった本年の正月段階では想像することもできなかった、世界規模の事態が進行中です。

不安な日々、見通せない閉塞感、社会の軋み、そして何より人間関係への新たな態度、それは在学生の皆さんも同じでしょう。

大学が提供してきた様々なサービスは制限され、自分の目指した研究がままならない状態になる、インバウンド、アウトバウンド問

わず留学中であつたり、留学を終えたばかりであつたりした学生が不本意な決断をしなくてはならないことも起きています。

人が移動できない、人と会うことができない、その中で、研究を進めるのは、いくらオンライン化が進み、いくら技術革新がなされようとも、多分、決定的な不便と欠落を私たちにもたらすと思います。その不便さや欠落を、新たな知恵をもたらす好機である、などと言って、皆さんを元気づけるつもりは私にはありません。不便や欠落は、どう転んでも、不便であり、欠落だからです。皆さんに会えないことが私には悲しく、寂しいからです。

感情は嘘をつきません。皆さんも今、この状況で感じている気持ちを、経験している感情を、大事にしてください。不便や欠落、それ自体よりも、不便や欠落の中で感じられている「自分」という存在を見てほしいと思います。すごく愛しいはずです。その気持ちこそ、皆さんの研究に必ず役に立つはずです。

巷では、social distancingとか言って、2メートルお互いに離れましょう、と宣伝しています。少し変ですね、離すべきは、物理的

な距離です。社会的な距離ではありません。社会的な距離はむしろ接近させましょう。想像し、思い、感じることで、社会的な距離は縮まります。今は、社会的な距離を縮める時です。共にあることを真剣に思う時だと思います。

皆さんと例年通りの大学院で例年通りにお会いできることを切に願います。 そのためには、まずは、みんなで、健康でいましょう。

2020年4月3日

To all the newly and previously enrolled students,

From the Dean of the Graduate School of Human Relations
OKAHARA Masayuki

Firstly, I would like to express my congratulations to all the students admitted to the Graduate School of Human Relations on April 1, 2020. I wish to thank you for becoming our colleagues. The entrance ceremony has been postponed until autumn. Among you all, there are most likely many who could not even attend proper graduation ceremonies, but were only handed their graduation certificates. This year's classes will commence at the end of April. The way the classes are conducted will be quite different from last year. We are witnessing a worldwide development, one that we could not even imagine during the New Year holidays when there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the Olympic and the Paralympic Games would be held this year.

The uneasiness of the recent days, the unforeseen feeling of entrapment, the discord in the society, and above all, the new attitude towards social relationships – it is likely that all of you are experiencing these things.

The many services that the University has been offering so far have been limited, and whether it is the inbound or outbound exchange students, or those students who have just finished their exchange programs, there are many who will not be able to conduct the research they were striving towards, who are forced to make decisions they do not like.

People cannot move, cannot meet, and in that sort of a situation, no matter how much we have become a part of an online world, and no matter how much progress we have made in the field of technological innovation, proceeding with our research will inevitably make us face certain inconveniences and possibly make our work lacking. I have no intention to encourage everyone by saying that, for example, these inconveniences and deficiencies would be an opportunity for us to find new wisdom. Because, no matter how you look at it, inconvenience and deficiency are just that – inconvenience and deficiency. And because, not being able to see you in person, makes me feel sad and lonely.

Emotions do not lie. You should all treasure the feelings you are experiencing and the emotions that come to rise in this situation. More than just the inconvenience and the deficiencies themselves, I would like you to take a good look at the “you” that you can feel existing amidst all that is lacking. I believe it is a very important, beautiful feeling. And exactly this feeling will, in my opinion, be of great help in your future research.

“Social distancing” has become a popular topic among the public, and there are announcements that we should keep 2 meters away from each other. It is quite strange, isn't it? The distance we need to maintain is physical, not social. Rather, we should strive to become socially closer. By using our imagination, thinking about others, and feeling for them, the social distance decreases. And now is exactly the moment to work on reducing it further. I believe the time has come to seriously consider how important it is to stand together.

I sincerely hope that we will all be able to meet at our same old graduate school as we usually do every year. To that end, let's all work together to stay healthy first.

April 3, 2020