Some Systems Theory Approaches for Analyzing Human Behavior and Human Relations in Life Space:
Field Theory, Interdependence Theory, Socion Theory, Trajectory Equifinality Model

Masanori ISHIMORI

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to examine the effect of Field Theory and the concept of Life Space proposed by Kurt Lewin regarding some system theories and approaches to understand human behaviors and interpersonal relations. I start my study with an overview of Lewin’s theory and concept. It was pointed that Lewin’s epistemology and philosophy of science was heavily affected by Ernst Cassirer. Lewin developed a topological approach to represent and analyze psychological life space. However, his approach was primitive and insufficient due to the restraints of the era. Then, I individually examine Interdependence Theory, Socion Theory, and Trajectory Equifinality Model (TEM) which are directly and indirectly affected by Lewin’s theory. Interdependence Theory adopted outcome matrix from game theory to analyze interpersonal relations. It did not use the life space in the theoretical work, but the use of the outcome matrix was very much within the Lewinian tradition. Socion Theory tries to visualize interpersonal relationships by Socion Score. TEM is a methodology to describe human development within irreversible time. TEM focuses on the human experience of transformation and expresses the idiographic life trajectories in an individual’s life course. Finally, future challenges are discussed from the standpoint of those system theories and approaches.

Key Words: Field Theory, Life Space, Systems Theory
The Attitude of University Students
toward the Death Penalty System

Junichi FUKUMOTO

ABSTRACT

In this study, we researched what image university students, as the younger generation, have of the death penalty system, and their opinion of it.

The survey consistently asked university students their opinions regarding accepting or abolishing the death penalty, providing three choices and allowing respondents to freely provide their reasons. The result via simple tabulation was “accept” (agree) 52.7%, “neither” (I don’t know) 27.9%, ”abolition” (disagree) 19.4%. Although “accept” was selected more often than “abolish”, there were more “neither” responses than in the aforementioned public opinion poll. If we consider the “neither” group as disagreeing, the younger generation has more doubts about the death penalty system.

We analyzed the reasons for “acceptance” or “abolition” by quantification method III. The reasons for “admission” were ethical, such as dignity of life and that humans have no right to take the lives of others. The reason for “neither” was mainly that expiation of one’s sins can not to be done by death. In contrast, the reasons for acceptance were mainly based on an emotional desire for punishment, such as crime prevention, or punishment as deterrence. Some of the reasons were diametrically opposed, but others were not symmetric, such as false accusations and the feelings of victims. The results show that the attitudes of university students toward the death penalty might be changed by depending on whether they side with the victims or assailants, and further studies about the reasons for different viewpoints are required.

Key Words: lay judge system, death penalty system, acceptance, abolition
Current Issues in the Measurement of Social Value Orientation

Kumiko MORI

ABSTRACT

Social psychologists have long recognized that there are individual differences in the concern for others’ outcomes in interdependent situations. Measuring the magnitude of these self-regarding and other-regarding preferences, “social value orientation (SVO)”, has been of interest not only to social psychologists but also many social scientists. In this paper, I review the vast number of findings of SVO and prosocial behavior, and survey several different measurement methods that have been developed so far. I then discuss the relationship between the theoretical model and measurement method of SVO and question the uncritical use of the traditional prevailing measurement method. I conclude with a few suggestions on switching to some new methods under development to bridge different scientific disciplines concerned with people’s social preferences.

Key Words: Social value orientation, prosocial behavior, altruism
Verification of “Conservative Swing of Japanese University Students” Using Online Survey: What Do They Maintain?

Kazunori INAMASU
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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the conservative swing of Japanese university students. While the high approval ratings of the Abe cabinet and the popularity of Toshio Tamogami in the Tokyo gubernatorial election gave the impression that Japanese voters were growing more conservative, Endo and Willy (2014) showed that young people do not understand conservative/progressive ideology as other generations do. Therefore, using two online surveys, we examined whether university students are more conservative than others, and how they understand conservative/progressive ideology. The results show that the proportion of conservative respondents is higher in university students than others and they have more conservative attitudes in salient issues such as the prime minister’s visit to Yasukuni Shrine or nuclear power generation. On the other hand, they do not necessarily have conservative attitudes toward issues like constitutional amendments or right to collective defense. It implies most university students do not treat conservative/progressive ideology as a bundle of attitudes, but as a symbol of salient issues.

Key Words: conservative/progressive ideology, university students, online survey
Religious Change in Western Europe: 
Theoretical Hypotheses and Empirical Findings

Wolfgang JAGODZINSKI
Kazufumi MANABE

ABSTRACT

Most sociologists in Western Europe believe that contemporary societies are largely secularized, and that religion is gradually withering away. It has been argued that European religious belief systems have undergone a profound process of transformation. This process is not simple, and the pattern and speed of these changes vary. Some dimensions have already changed long ago, resulting in largely homogeneous attitudes and beliefs. Other changes are more recent, in one or two directions. Consequently, in some cases the society becomes sometimes more pluralistic, and in other cases, less.

The dimensions of change and the change hypotheses are outlined in Part II.

In Part III, these hypotheses are tested against empirical data. For this purpose, three comparative data sets are used: 1. the European Values Study 1999 (EVS 1999), 2. the International Social Survey Programme 1998 (ISSP 1998), and 3. Religious and Moral Pluralism 1999 (RAMP 1999).

The results of data analyses show that religious belief systems undergo a far-reaching transformation in the process of modernization. Our data analysis has focused on the changes in Western societies, and documented generational and social differences in various areas.

Key Words: religious consciousness, change, cross-national comparative survey, religious symbols, interpretation of dogma, reincarnation, spirituality
Guesthouses as a Field where Travelers Interact with Other Travelers:
Social Psychological Study of Interactive Tourism

Yoshifumi HAYASHI
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

Guesthouses are small-scale accommodations that have both common spaces for travelers and a budget dormitory. Guesthouses consist of three environments: cultural, physical, and social. Travelers have social interaction inside the guesthouses, surrounded by local sightseeing locations. In this study, the effect of the interactions among travelers was revealed by uncovering the field characteristics of the guesthouses. The results showed guesthouses included the characteristics of “resting places”, “social ties”, “unusual daily experiences”, and “pilgrimage places”. Finally, this study indicated that the self-process occurred among travelers, and suggested the possibility for them to self-actualize in the future.

Key Words: guesthouse, interactive tourism, self process
The Effect of Complaint Procedures as Emotional Labor on Mental Health: Focusing on Subjective Stress and Job Satisfaction

Hiromi IKEUCHI
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

This study regards complaint procedures as a kind of work termed ‘emotional labor’. Emotional labor is defined as the required emotional regulation to display desired emotions during the interaction with customers. The main purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of complaint procedures as emotional labor on mental health, that is, subjective stress and job satisfaction. A hundred and thirty-eight workers at customer service centers were asked to complete a questionnaire by the mail survey method. A factor analysis revealed that the concept of emotional labor for workers at customer service centers had three factors: “positive emotions display”, “sensitivity requirements”, and “negative behavior display.” In particular, “positive emotions display” tended to increase subjective stress. Furthermore, “the aptitude scale for emotional labor (for workers at customer service centers)” was also developed, and the high levels of “professional skills” and “motivation” led to higher job satisfaction.

Key Words: complaint procedures, emotional labor, mental health
Development of Community Resources through the Multidirectional Evaluation Method; The Attractions of Okinawa as seen from Inside and Outside

Junzo KATO
Yoshifumi HAYASHI
Naoka MAEMURA
Takuya OKAMOTO
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to verify the validity of the “multidirectional evaluation method” proposed as a method for evaluating community resources. In Examination 1, we asked local residents to collect information (to take photographs) of community resources in Okinawa and categorize them using the KJ method. In Examination 2, we ask them to evaluate the levels of attractiveness and approachability of the community resources collected in Examination 1 (230 local residents, 55 emigrants and 232 people living outside Okinawa). As a result, it was possible to evaluate the general levels of attraction of community resources by the multidirectional evaluation method. Also, by comparing three different evaluation results from local residents, emigrants and people living outside Okinawa, we were able to show differences in evaluations according to attributes, such as what kind of community resources are more highly appreciated by the local residents than by those living outside of the prefecture.

Key Words: community resources, multidirectional evaluation method, Okinawa
Development of the Japanese Version of the Need for Affect Questionnaire

Takaya KOHYAMA
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

The present study developed and tested an individual difference measure of the Japanese version of the need for affect, which is the motivation to approach and avoid emotion-inducing situations. First we examined the structure of the Japanese version of Need for Affect Questionnaire (J-NAQ) and then demonstrated its test-retest reliability, construct validity, and criterion-related validity. The results showed the sufficient reliability and validity of the J-NAQ. Finally, remaining questions for future investigation were described.

Key Words: need for affect, individual difference, developing scales
Three-Dimensional Force Field Model for Social Attitudes: 
Verification by Comparison among Three Interpolating Methods

Koji KOSUGI
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

We propose a three-dimensional force field model to visualize attitudinal space. The first and second dimensions were measured by the Multidimensional Scaling method where the interaction with group members was the input data. The third dimension was measured using the impression ratings of group members. It is necessary to estimate the elevation of unobserved coordinates. One of the estimation methods was provided by Abelson (1954−55). As alternative models, the Kriging method, and the Inverse distance weighting (IDW) method, a spatial interpolation method in spatial statistics, were tested. These three models were applied to small group data, which includes impression evaluations for other members and times spent with other members. As a result of a comparison of the goodness of fit, Abelson’s method had the least residuals. The second best was the IDW method, and the Kriging method was the worst.

This result may differ by using other types of data or the estimation model for the Kriging method. In the discussion, we point out the necessity of the spatial approach in social psychology by using a variety of techniques and data.

Key Words: attitudinal space, contour model, spatial interpolation method
Social Psychological Considerations of ‘Life-Style Migration’

Naoka MAEMURA
Junzo KATO
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

Why do people move to places where there are no economic advantages? Shortly after the 1990s, young Japanese have been driven by the pursuit of a ‘different type of life style’ and immigrated to places or countries where they do not have familial ties. This phenomenon is called ‘I-Turn’ or ‘life-style migration.’ Okinawa is one of the most popular locations for life-style migrants, as it is surrounded by scenic tropical oceans and has a warm climate, in addition to a unique culture and history. The purpose of this study is to develop a certain pattern of domestic migration, and to psychologically investigate the motivations of moving based on participants’ life events and emotional changes. Three researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with 26 participants (20 men, and six women with a mean age of 33.46). All participants emigrated from the Japanese mainland to Okinawa. Results showed that participants’ motivations for moving were categorized into three main groups, namely, migration for business or study, migration to accompany someone else, and life-style migration. Then we focused on three typical cases of life-style migration. According to the interviews, some crucial factors of the migration processes were found; (negative) triggers for seeking changes of life, personal traits of flexibility, interpersonal relationships in the destination, and attachment to the destination.

Key Words: lifestyle migration, I-Turn, migration motivation
Intercultural Training in the Foreign Language Classroom: Using Video to Develop Cultural Awareness and Cultural Self-awareness of Japanese College Students

Noriko NAKAGAWA
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

English education in Japan long ago shifted its focus from the grammar-translation method as a way to acquire knowledge of English to using communicative approaches regarding foreign language learning as a communication activity. Foreign language education and intercultural communication education share important goals, and current high school and university English education not only adopts methods based on applied linguistics and/or TESL, but also conducts classes based on intercultural communication and intercultural training.

This paper introduces a college-level English class whose focus was on intercultural communication education. A videotaped critical incident was created by one of the authors and used in her English class in order to develop the students’ cultural awareness and cultural self-awareness. After the students watched a 4-minute videotaped role play, which illustrated a cross-cultural interaction between Japanese and American college students, they worked on the class activities. Analyses of the students’ responses to the questions in accompanying worksheets and a questionnaire administered after the class revealed that the students acquired a degree of cultural awareness and cultural self-awareness through this class. In the final section of the paper, by applying her English class to Kolb’s “Experiential Learning Cycle” (Kolb, 1984) and “Model for Instructional Design Using Visual Media Material” by Murata (2013), the authors will make a further analysis of the conducted class, and explore an effective design of English classes that targets intercultural communication education.

Key Words: foreign language education, intercultural training, visual media material
The Relationship between Housing Environment and Well-Being: A Review Study

Naoki NAKAZATO
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

We review literature on the relationship between housing environment and well-being. Our review focuses mainly on how objective housing characteristics contribute to the general public’s well-being. Reviewed articles were classified into (a) cross-sectional studies examining the relationship between a single housing characteristic and well-being, (b) cross-sectional studies examining effects of multiple housing characteristics on well-being, and (c) longitudinal studies. The literature has consistently showed that a better house leads to higher levels of well-being. In particular, housing size, housing condition, and home ownership were important housing characteristics. However, a number of limitations still remain in this field such as no control for housing characteristics other than the one researchers are interested in and no examination of long-term effects of housing characteristics on well-being. Accordingly, we suggest that future studies should (1) simultaneously examine effects of multiple housing characteristics on well-being after controlling for SES and (2) longitudinally examine the effects of housing characteristics on well-being over years after moving into a new house. These would allow researchers to ascertain the unique and long-term contributions of individual housing characteristics on well-being. Further, needs for moderation and mediation effects of housing characteristics on well-being in future studies are discussed.

Key Words: housing environment, well-being, housing satisfaction
Social Psychological Study of Mountain Climbing:
Structure of Alpinism Motivation and its Development

Takuya OKAMOTO
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we aim to delineate the structure of “alpinism motivation” and examine the development of such motivations. A total of 270 respondents who climbed the Japanese Northern Alps completed the questionnaire at mountain lodges. Results show alpinism motivation consisted mainly of six motives: “spontaneous motive”, “natural motive”, “invitational motive”, “spiritual motive”, “nostalgia motive”, and “healthy motive.” The optimal scaling of the climbers’ demographic variables indicate four types of climbers: 1) mainly young women who climb with friends and are influenced by others or media, 2) mainly young men climbing alone and for introspection, 3) mainly old men climbing for health reasons, and 4) mainly old women climbing with family for a sense of fulfillment and to extend a hiking experience. From these findings, we compare alpinism motivation with tourism and pilgrim motivation.

Key Words: climbing, alpinism motivation, self-determination theory
A Theoretical Approach to the Origin of Morality: The Dynamic Interdependence Theory and Institutional Analysis

Hiroshi SHIMIZU
Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the origin of morality on the basis of dynamic interdependence theory and institutional analysis. The moral foundation theory explains the origin of morality through a multilevel selection theory, a genetic evolutionary approach taking both individual and group selection into consideration. However, this theory, similar to other cultural evolutionary theories, has certain limitations in explaining how injunctive morality arose in social groups. Therefore, we offer an institutional evolutionary explanation of the origin of morality, which is based on dynamic interdependence theory and comparative institutional analysis. This approach gives us certain important advantages in discussing the origin of morality. First, three fundamental patterns of interdependence are identified on the basis of the dynamic interdependence theory. Then, transformation methods of outcome matrices corresponding to the patterns of interdependence are developed. Next, institutional analysis allows us to describe how social institutions operate with these transformation methods. These theoretical components indicate that social institutions (authority, indirect reciprocity, and traditional religion, among others) constructed an environment producing selection pressure on morality. Finally, we discuss how injunctive morality as an emotion functions in social groups.

Key Words: the origin of morality, institutions, dynamic interdependence theory
Content Analysis of Films (4)
——Similarities in Japanese Film Preferences between Film Critics and Film Journal Readers——

Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

This study illustrates communalities and similarities in Japanese film preferences between film critics and readers of the film journal Kinema Junpō using journal ranking data from 1955 to 2010. Films that commonly received rankings of lower than 20 by film critics and readers were defined as “high agreement films”. The results indicated that the average agreement ratio was 75%.

Key Words: film preference, film critics, film journal readers