

Report 1.

Methodological Studies for Translational Research in Human Support



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I am currently the Director of the Institute of Human Sciences and served as moderator for the second part. The role of director involves the management of the institute, including the establishment of new projects. On the occasion of launching this project, I think I made a contribution to the establishment of the project's idea to utilize the concept of translational research, which has been previously done in the field of medicine, and also the classification of restorative support, anticipating support, and escorted support. These words had been used in various settings, but classifying emerging human services into them is a new idea. The close collaboration between academia and practical fields is increasingly critical. When inclusive society is pursued in diversifying society with low birthrate, aging population, diverse families and increasingly complex and social relationships, the task of providing human services becomes more complicated. There is, therefore, a need for rapid progress in the development of new methods to be employed with the increasing awareness of the mission of academia to develop research for the practice of human support.

To tackle the challenges of the complex issues, it is critical that researchers from psychology, sociology, social work, social welfare and other various fields within the humanities and social sciences work together. It is also important with increasing awareness of the mission of academia to make practical use of the wide-ranging research on human support being conducted by various disciplines within the humanities and social sciences have become increasingly important.

The aim of research of the Methodological Study Group is to comprehensively explore the methodology of consciously and systematically translating results of those disciplines into human services practices, or in other words, to examine

the state of translational research in the field of human services. Actually, in our research, we do not directly support anyone. Rather, we analyze research in human services, and explore how we can connect practice to the evidence, and how we can disseminate the new evidence to practices in society. That's what we are going to explore in this project.

I, myself, and also Prof. Tatsuya Sato who is well-versed in methodology and psychology, and other leaders of other teams, participate in this project. Together with post-doctoral fellows and graduate students, we are going to promote this project.

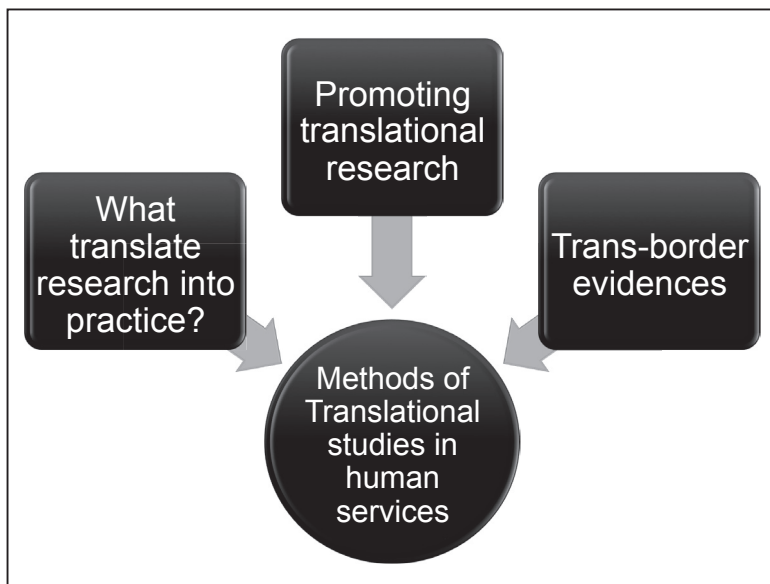


Fig.1

As you can see, we have three major areas(Fig.1). First, in the field of human services, we intend to explore what is the process that connects fundamental research and practice, and how chains of research link the results of fundamental research and actual human services. In other words, we are interested in the process of how new scientific findings have been connected to the development of the actual services. It is important to work with individual studies on human

services. We would like to analyze how innovative methods and new concepts has been developed and disseminated in research on supporting activities for, eg., *hikikomori* (adolescent or adults who withdraw from social life) or students with special needs. Also, how outcomes of biological or medical brain research, which has been recently developed, are connected to human support will be reviewed.

The second theme is, on the basis of the actual state of the chains of research in human services, we will examine methodologies intended to make it more organized, systematic, and effective to promote or to contain the chains of research. We will also examine what activities, organizations, and systems can promote them. What kind of chains and, what containments exist in translating scientific evidences into practice in human services? We would like to consider how to synthesize evidences for practice and how to disseminate them, which were touched upon in today's keynote. We would like to consider it in terms of human services. The Campbell Collaboration joint projects have been done, but we'd like to think what more we can do in Japan, especially about the dissemination of actual or practical information. We'd like to think about utilization of new media, including ICT.

Thirdly, we will tackle the issue of whether evidences of human services can become trans-boundary or not, and trans-cultural or not. In today's world, many countries face the same kind of human service issues, so can one support method that is tried in one cultural background be applied in others? If so, what points do we have to pay attention to? This is a very huge theme, however, we'd like to study the issues of dissemination of new methods of support beyond boundaries in Japan and Asian countries.

Today, listening to the keynote speech by Prof. Soydan, I thought that we turn our eyes also to North America and other cultural backgrounds. I think the situation is different in Asia and North America, and the points we have to pay attention to may be different from region to region. Our team is now actually working on the topic of transnational evidence in the Asian region. When teams conducting research on direct supports have a TV meeting with colleagues in

other countries, our group will participate in that meeting to observe and analyze how researchers from different countries interact from methodological perspectives.

I just talked about the ideas we now have, but these are the themes we'd like to work on this year, and also start full-fledged research from next year.

In medical science, translational research has very much progressed, especially in terms of the development of new pharmaceuticals. We'd like to pay attention to much discussion in that field with a critical eye to think about what kind of translational method we can have in the field of human services. That's all from me. Thank you.

Inaba: Thank you very much, Prof. Matsuda. Next...concerning the research on proactive support for inclusive society, we would like to invite Prof. Tsuchida from the College of Letters.