

Global Environmental Policy

Social Science Research into Policy and Citizen Responses to Environmental Challenges

Keywords: adaptation and mitigation, climate justice, disaster risk management, energy justice, environmental awareness and behavior, environmental law ethical consumption, food security, Indigenous knowledge, sustainable business



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Research topics and methods

Interdisciplinarity with a core

- To choose a core field among social sciences
- To choose a method between quantitative analysis and qualitative study
- To approach a research subject, utilizing observations in related areas

Various topics

- Environmental policy at global, national, and local levels
- Citizens' environmental awareness and behavior
- Business strategy and environmental activism



Two methods

- Quantitative statistical analysis
- Qualitative case study
- A combination of these methods



Educational activities and achievements

Multilayered guidance

- Tutorials with a supervisor
- Presentation and discussion at the laboratory's seminars
- Joint seminars of social science laboratories in the GSGES

Students' achievements

Since 2013

- Degrees: 18 students obtained PhD degree; 51 students Master's degree
- Papers published in refereed journals: >60
- Presentations at academic conferences: >90
- Prizes/awards: 20
- Dissertations published as books: 3



Students' research subjects

Various thesis themes

☐ PhD, ☐ Master's degree (2024 academic year)

- ☐ Corporate Climate Change Disclosure and Carbon Performance: The Role of Public Policy in China
- ☐ Diffusion and Prospects of the River Chief System in China
- ☐ Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Urban Flood Risk Mitigation: Policy Analysis, Expert Perspectives, and Public Perceptions in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal
- ☐ Discrepancy between the Daily Practice and Self-perception of Vegetarianism: A Qualitative Study on Dietarian Identity in Japan
- ☐ Influence of Culture on CSR Reports of Japanese and German Automotive Companies
- ☐ The Role of Ambiguity and Conflict in Japanese Island Revitalisation Policy Implementation

Members and careers

Members

As of March 2025

- Faculty and staff: professor, assistant professor, secretary
- Students: 12 doctoral students, 8 Master's program students, 4 research students

Internships

OECD Headquarters, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, etc.

Alumni

- Universities and institutes: Kyoto University, University of Tokyo, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Green Technology Center (Korea), Thuy Loi University (Vietnam), etc.
- Businesses: Coca-Cola (Japan) Company, Daiwa Securities, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, DeNA, Hitachi, IBM Japan, Mitsui Sumitomo Banking, Mizuho Research & Technologies, Rakuten, Sharp, Veolia Jenets, etc.
- Governments and non-governmental organizations: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO Jakarta, WWF the Philippines, etc.

For further information

- **Official website**

<https://www.envpolicy.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en>

- **Promotional video**

"Makoto Usami - Social Science Research into Policy and Citizen Responses to Environmental Challenges"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3n4mZHWrd0>

