B'AI Global Forum

Annual Report 2020

2021.05.31.

Introduction

B'AI Global Forum was launched on July 30, 2020.

The main focus of our mission is how to better realize the social goal of ensuring an equal society and the rights of minorities in an age when AI permeates every aspect of society. This report is a summary of our research and educational activities in the first year until the end of March 2021.

B'AI includes faculty members, researchers, and graduate students from the University of Tokyo, as well as people from other organizations in Japan and abroad. By bringing together a diverse group of members and actively exchanging ideas, we will build new understanding and value.

Since the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, we were not able to conduct face-to-face activities in FY2020. Consequently, we could not invite researchers living outside of Japan, nor could we visit them to conduct research. It is unfortunate that our planned activities were limited, but in a society that closes its borders and emphasizes distance from others, we became more acutely aware of the "boundaries" that are set up in every aspect of our daily lives. There were also insights that we gained because of this social situation.

Even if "normal" research activities and exchanges become possible in the future, we are convinced that the various discussions on AI and society that B'AI has developed in the six months of 2020 will remain as the foundation of our activities for a long time to come.

May 2021

Kaori Hayashi (Director, B'AI Global Forum)

Project Description

About B'AI Global Forum

o   Group of researchers and practitioners for exploration of criteria and ethics, and pursuit of practical research, aimed at realization of a truly gender-equal society and guarantee of rights protection for minorities in the age of AI

o   Project established within the "AI and Society" section of the Institute for AI and Beyond, which was jointly launched by the University of Tokyo and Softbank

o   The "B" in the name of "B'AI" represents our intention to pay attention to the history of discourse and representation **b**efore AI, various competing interests **b**ehind the development of AI, and the structure **b**eneath AI. In other words, the name of our project shows our goal of conducting a multi-perspective analysis on the history and social structure that produced and enabled modern technologies such as AI.

Steering Team

o   Director : Kaori Hayashi (Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo)

o   Associate Director : Yuko Itatsu (Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo)

o   Executive Manager : Yujin Yaguchi (Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo)

Research Period

o   Expected duration：30/7/2020 ～ 31/3/2030

   （Reporting period：30/7/2020 ～31/3/2021)

Project Overview

o   The B'AI Global Forum Project searches for effective ways to realize our social goal of creating a gender-equal society and guaranteeing minority rights in the era where AI permeates every aspect of our lives. Today's world faces serious challenges, with ever-continuing economic gap and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and gender. In particular, as the forms of communication mediated by digital technologies have become increasingly conspicuous in all realms of society including politics, economy and culture, especially since the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, the economic gap and discriminations are said to be worsening throughout the world. In order to confront such social challenges, our project questions the fundamental values of modernity that have prioritized the progress of science and technology, and also promotes the intellectual endeavor to understand the formation of the contemporary social institutions and organizational structure. We plan to do this by collaborating with researchers, practitioners, journalists and other citizens to identify current problems and seek and propose solutions so that the latest technology such as AI may enrich every human life.

Two Goals

o   Critically and self-reflexively examining the relationship between society and digital information technologies including AI

o   Realizing fair and just discourse in the public sphere

Four Themes

o   Analyze discrimination and violence against women and minorities by the digital information technologies, including AI

o   Design a diverse and inclusive mediascape by the digital information technologies, including AI

- o Create an interdisciplinary global forum where young researchers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, and other citizens come together to discuss issues related to AI and society

- o Reconceptualize ethics for digital information age and practice inclusive education based on those ethics

B'AI Global Forum

The First Stage of the B'AI Global Forum

B'AI Global Forum Launch Event

o   B'AI Global Forum held an inaugural event "Gender Justice in the AI Era: Dialogue on Engagement and Activism" via Zoom and YouTube on March 17, 2021. In the first session, Anita Gurumurthy, who is an executive director of IT for Change, gave a keynote lecture on the theme of "Towards Feminist Futures in the Intelligence Economy." In the second session, Asumi Saito, Co-founder of Waffle.org, and Akihiro Nakao, Professor in the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies at the University of Tokyo, participated in a panel discussion. Discussions were also held with questions and comments from the audience, and Yuko Itatsu, Associate Director of B'AI Global Forum, moderated the discussions.

Office of the B'AI Global Forum

o   In February 2021, the B'AI Global Forum opened the office "BAIROOM" in the Faculty of Engineering Bldg. 12 on the Asano Campus of the University of Tokyo. BAIROOM is a place for communication among B'AI members and a venue for events such as conferences and workshops.

Official Website of the B'AI Global Forum

o   The official website was launched in February 2021 (https://baiforum.jp). This website provides information on B'AI's visions, members, projects, events, as well as a list of institutions on AI ethics and major reports from around the world. Activities of the B'AI Global Forum are also archived here.

o   English version of the official website was released in March: https://baiforum.jp/en/

o   Official Social Media: Facebook https://www.facebook.com/baiforum/

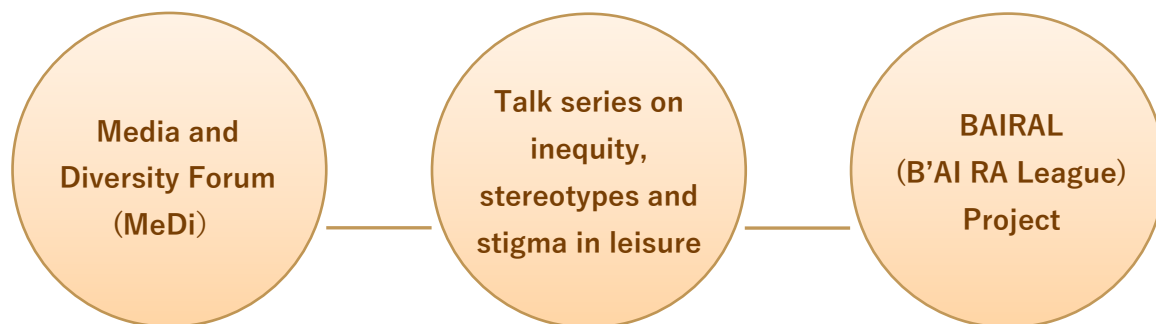Twitter https://twitter.com/baiforum

B'AI Global Forum Launch Event

BAIROOM

B'AI Official Website

Projects of the B'AI Global Forum

| Media and Diversity Forum (MeDi) | — | Talk series on inequity, stereotypes and stigma in leisure | — | BAIRAL (B'AI RA League) Project |

Media and Diversity Forum (MeDi)

o "Media and Diversity Forum (MeDi)" is a discussion forum for researchers and journalists as well as a network that engages both activism and research. Since media representations are influential enough to create norms for daily life, it has been pointed out that inappropriate representations can become a human rights issue, leading to discrimination, bullying, and harassment in workplaces and schools. MeDi points out these media issues and explores the positive possibilities and future challenges of the digital information society, in collaboration with researchers and practitioners from around the world. (https://www.medi-gender.com)

o The first MeDi Symposium "Closing the Gender Gap: Challenges for the Future of Media in the Digital Information Society" was held online on December 12, 2020. This symposium consisted of two parts: Part I "What Changes with More Women?: Major Media Start Addressing Gender Issues" and Part II "Is the Online Space Safe for Women?". MeDi's members and the guests (Tae Fujita who is a director general of the Division of Human Resources and Labor of TBS Television, Asahi Shimbun reporter Sawa Okabayashi, Arisa Ema who is a project lecturer of the Institute for Future Initiatives at the University of Tokyo, writer Hioka, and attorney Genichi Yamaguchi) engaged in a lively discussion.

Talk Series on "Inequity, Stereotypes, and Stigma in Leisure"

o Artificial intelligence (AI) has already made itself indispensable in leisure and is impacting the ways in which we relate to society and how we find contentment as people. Also embedded in leisure time activities, online or off, are structures of discrimination, stifling of leisure time activities based on stereotypes and stigma. The aim of this project is to investigate and reflect on the ways in which inequity, stereotypes and stigma has been embedded into leisure culture. We place this as foundational work that will be useful to critique the ways in which AI may quietly perpetuate inequity, stereotypes and stigma in our leisure pursuits.

o In FY2020, the talk series on "Inequity, Stereotypes and Stigma in Leisure" had two installments in collaboration with the Leisure Studies *Kenkyukai*, and the Association for Leisure and Tourism Studies, as follows:

- The 1st Installment "Why and How Do Leisure and "Disparity" Intersect?" (Lecturer: Takato Ozawa, Associate Professor, School of Tourism, Tokai University)

- The 2nd Installment ① "Hobbyization and Genderization of Hobbies in Prewar Japan: Focusing on the Lower Secondary School-Aged Population" (Lecturer: Koichi Utagawa, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Nursing Science, St. Luke's International University) ② "Significance and Challenges of Leisure Exercises Using Social Media" (Lecturer: Momoko Aono, Ph.D Student, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University)

BAIRAL Project

o BAIRAL (B'AI RA League) is a study session by young research assistants (RA) in the B'AI Global Forum. This study group examines relationships between artificial intelligence (AI) and society from both theoretical and practical aspects. Today, AI has shown many potential applications in our daily lives, but it has also created new power relations and risks. In order to understand politics, society and culture in these times, and to weave norms of human dignity and freedom into new technologies, we need to acquire interdisciplinary perspectives.

Our aim is to create a network of people who are engaged in research and practices in a variety of fields, in order to discuss the realization of a better society through AI. To this end, BAIRAL organizes monthly research meetings with guest speakers in a variety of fields.

o In FY2020, four research meetings were held as follows:

- The 1st BAIRAL research meeting for 2020 "Media Theories on Search Engine Rankings" (Lecturer: Atsushi Udagawa, Ph.D Student, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, University of Tokyo)

- The 2nd BAIRAL research meeting for 2020 "Clarifying Gender Bias in Newsrooms: A Collaborative Project "AIJO" with Eight Companies around the World" (Lecturer: Yosuke Suzuki, Nikkei America, Inc. and Issei Mori, University of California, Santa Cruz; an intern at Nikkei America, Inc.)

- The 3rd BAIRAL research meeting for 2020 "Detection of Luring and Cyberbullying Using Network Analysis" (Lecturer: Mao Nishiguchi, Project Researcher, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo)

- The 4th BAIRAL research meeting for 2020 "Differences between a Web News Company and a Newspaper and Fact-checking in News Production Processes" (Lecturer: Kota Hatachi, Reporter, BuzzFeed JAPAN)

Other Activities

Academic Events

o   On September 30, 2020, B'AI co-hosted an event with the Society Team of RIKEN AIP (leader: Prof. Masashi Sugiyama, "Super AI, Evolution of AI itself" division). Presentations of B'AI: Kaori Hayashi "The Voice of 'I don't know'"; Yuko Itatsu "Changes in Leisure Activities and Leisure Discourse in the Age of AI"; Yujin Yaguchi "AI Translation/Interpretation and Intercultural Education/International Exchange"

o   In November, 2020, B'AI launched a Facebook of "Constructive Journalism research group," setting up a forum for researchers and practitioners to create constructive speech and expression in Japan.
    https://www.facebook.com/tothefuturesociety/

o   On November 23, 2020, B'AI held a bus tour to visit the National Museum of Japanese History (Sakura City), to observe the special exhibition "Gender in Japanese History." The following week, on November 30, B'AI held an online session, "Reflections on 'Gender in Japanese History': The Exhibition Space of the National Museum of Japanese History and the 'Fair' Representation of Gender History."

o   B'AI, together with NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute and NHK Science & Technology Research Laboratories, launched a project to research diversity in news reporting through AI-based on-screen surveys, and held research meetings on August 27, November 17, and February 5. On March 4, 2021, Kaori Hayashi presented an interim report at the NHK BUNKEN Forum 2021, "How to Promote Diversity in the Media? From the Perspective of Gender Balance."

o   B'AI participated in the Journalism AI Project at the London School of Economics (LSE) with the Asahi and Nikkei newspapers and launched an exploratory research to determine gender from proper nouns in the text of newspaper articles (Japanese and English) using AI to look at gender bias in information.

o   B'AI co-organized a lecture "The Gender Equality Education Act in Taiwan" by Ken Suzuki, Professor at Meiji University, on December 10, 2020, with SAYFT (Safe Campus Youth Network Faculty Team) which is a study group with Prof. Mari Miura of Sophia University.

o   Yuko Itatsu, Kayoung Kim, and Jooeun Noh participated in the 35th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, held online on February 2-9, 2021.

o   B'AI was in charge of the planning, publicity, and management of the Inaugural Symposium of the Institute for AI and Beyond held on February 20, 2021. In this symposium, Audrey Tang, Digital Minister of Taiwan, Sputniko!, Associate Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, and Yoshiho Ikeuchi, Associate Professor at the Institute of Industrial Science at the University of Tokyo were the panelists, and Kaori Hayashi moderated the event.

o   B'AI co-hosted an educational online workshop with Go Global Gateway (GGG) at the University of Tokyo.

   •   B'AI conducted a short program workshop for undergraduates, "Pandemic Response: A Dialogue with Germany" on February 16 and 18, 2021.

   •   On March 3 and 5, 2021, B'AI held the "AI x Gender Online Workshop with Design Thinking" with Prof. Miles Pennington of the Institute of Industrial Science, Project Researcher Tomomi Sayuda from DLX Design Lab and B'AI Global Forum, University of Tokyo.

Collaborative Research under consideration

o Discussions underway about forming a research team to shed light on the global spread of online attacks against women with Northwestern University Women's Center, Northwestern University, and the Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs in the USA

o Discussing the formation of a German-Japanese AI and Society Forum with Prof. Gisela Trommesdorff, University of Konstanz, Germany

Research Achievements

Books

o   Osamu Sakura (2020). *What is Science: A New Theory of Science, Three Perspectives Needed Today*. Bluebacks. (佐倉統 (2020)『科学とはなにか――新しい科学論、いま必要な三つの視点』ブルーバックス、講談社)
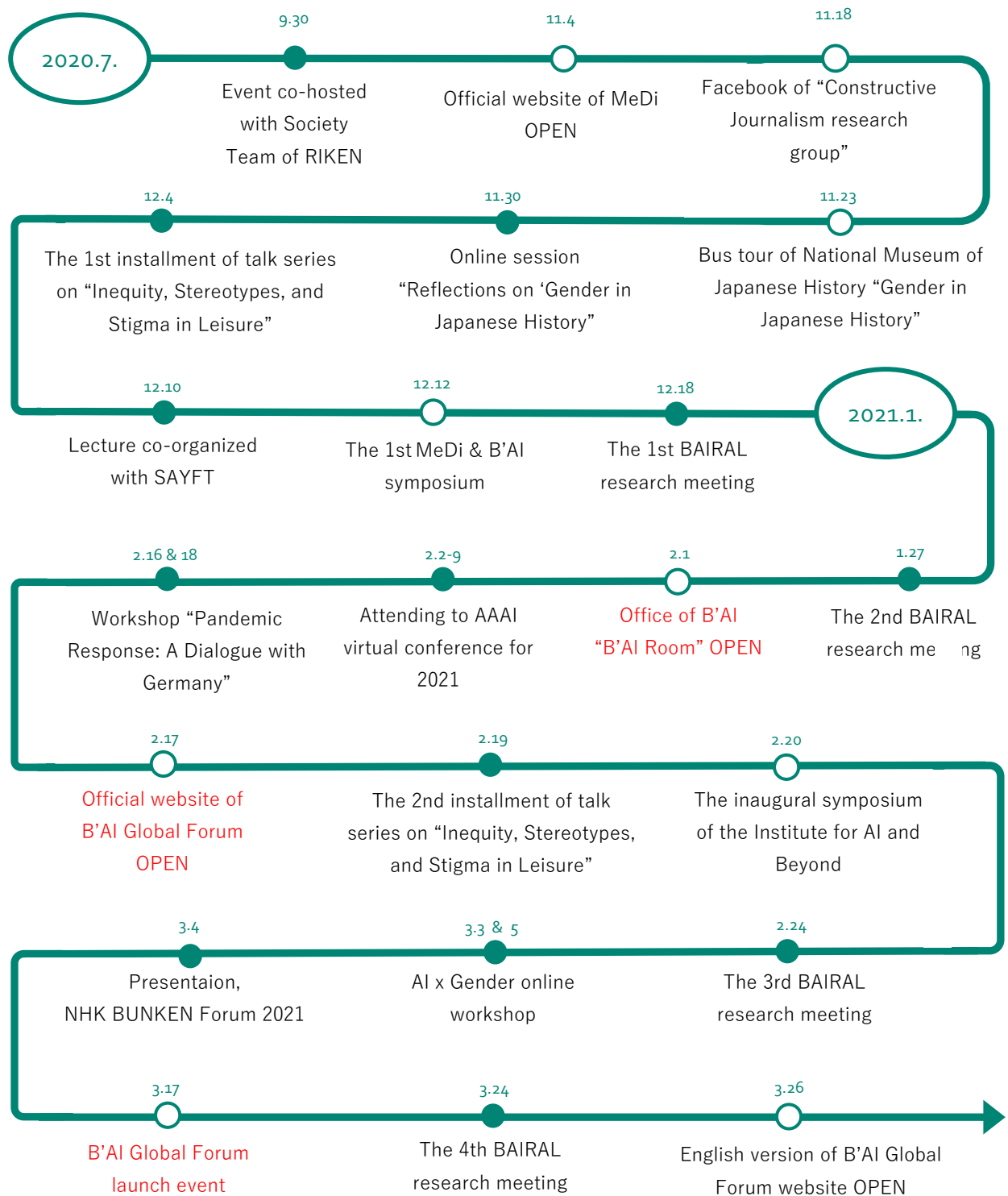
Articles

o   Shin Mizukoshi (2020). Media Landscape without Apple: A Workshop for Critical Awareness of Alternative Media Infrastructure. *The Journal of Education (The Institute for Education and Research, Gyeongin National University of Education),* Vol.2, No.3, 77-94.

Presentations

o   Osamu Sakura, "Thinking about Science and Technology from the Perspectives of Society and Culture," presented as a speaker of Special Education Lecture at the 43 Annual Meeting of the Japan Neuro Science Society, online, July 3, 2020.

o   Osamu Sakura, "Thinking about Science and Technology in the Context of Society," presented at the Academic Symposium "Understanding New Insight and Its Utilization," Science Council of Japan, online, September 10, 2020.

o   Osamu Sakura, "Who is Science and Technology for?: Looking Back in History," presented at *the Night 4: An Evening to Consider the Next Generation Mobility Society*, Global Research Institute for Mobility in Society Institutes of Innovation for Future Society, Nagoya University, online, October 6, 2020.

o   Osamu Sakura, Keynote Speaker: "Who is Science and Technology for?: Looking Back in History," The 30th Annual Conference of Japanese Neural Network Society, online, December 3, 2020.

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o   Yuko Itatsu, "Regarding the Need for AI research in Leisure Studies,"presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Leisure and Tourism Studies, Senshu University, online, November 14, 2020.

o   Yujin Yaguchi, "Gender difference in Japanese History: Looking Back on the Exhibition," presented at the online session "Reflections on 'Gender in Japanese History': The Exhibition Space of the National Museum of Japanese History and the 'Fair' Representation of Gender History," B'AI Global Forum, November 30, 2020.

o   Atsuko Sano, Discussant and Mentor of human rights and civil society stakeholder groups: "AI Governance Workshop," workshop with the University of Tokyo Institute for Future Initiatives and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), February 9, 2021.

2020 Year Timeline of the B'AI Global Forum

2020.7.

9.30 — Event co-hosted with Society Team of RIKEN

11.4 — Official website of MeDi OPEN

11.18 — Facebook of "Constructive Journalism research group"

11.23 — Bus tour of National Museum of Japanese History "Gender in Japanese History"

11.30 — Online session "Reflections on 'Gender in Japanese History'"

12.4 — The 1st installment of talk series on "Inequity, Stereotypes, and Stigma in Leisure"

12.10 — Lecture co-organized with SAYFT

12.12 — The 1st MeDi & B'AI symposium

12.18 — The 1st BAIRAL research meeting

2021.1.

1.27 — The 2nd BAIRAL research meeting

2.1 — Office of B'AI "B'AI Room" OPEN

2.2-9 — Attending to AAAI virtual conference for 2021

2.16 & 18 — Workshop "Pandemic Response: A Dialogue with Germany"

2.17 — Official website of B'AI Global Forum OPEN

2.19 — The 2nd installment of talk series on "Inequity, Stereotypes, and Stigma in Leisure"

2.20 — The inaugural symposium of the Institute for AI and Beyond

2.24 — The 3rd BAIRAL research meeting

3.3 & 5 — AI x Gender online workshop

3.4 — Presentaion, NHK BUNKEN Forum 2021

3.17 — B'AI Global Forum launch event

3.24 — The 4th BAIRAL research meeting

3.26 — English version of B'AI Global Forum website OPEN

Members of B'AI Global Forum in 2020

Title	Name	Position・Affiliation	Note
Director	Kaori Hayashi	Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
Associate Director	Yuko Itatsu	Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo	
Executive Manager	Yujin Yaguchi	Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
Co-investigator	Arisa Ema	Project Lecturer, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo	
	Osamu Sakura	Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Shin Mizukoshi	Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Noboru Koshizuka	Dean; Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo	
	Miles Pennington	Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo	
	Akiko Onishi	Associate Professor, Center for Research on Counseling and Support Services, University of Tokyo	
	Tohko Tanaka	Visiting Professor, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi*, Professor (Otsuma Women's University)
Project Researcher	Tomomi Sayuda	Project Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Kayoung Kim	Project Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Jooeun Noh	Project Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
Researcher	Keiko Kojima	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi, Essayist
	Renge Jibu	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi, Journalist

	Keiko Yamamoto	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi, Senior Manager (Nagoya Station NHK)
	Touko Shirakawa	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi, Journalist, Visiting Professor (Showa Women's University)
	Misook Lee	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	MeDi, Assistant Professor (Rikkyo University)
	Michiko Kawahara	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	Journalist
	Rong Zhang	Visiting Researcher, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	Reseacher (Tongji Zhejiang College)
Research Collaborator	Keiko Hamada	Editor in Chief, Business Insider Japan	MeDi
	Mari Miura	Professor, Faculty of Law, Sophia University	SAYFT**
	Yukiko Mishina	Associate Professor, University of Electro-Communications	
	Atsuko Sano	Part-time Lecturer, Graduate Scholl of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo University	
Research Assistant	Akira Tanaka	Ph.D Student, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Dongwoo Lim	Ph.D Student, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
	Hiroki Kato	Ph.D Student, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, University of Tokyo	
Administrative Staff	Midori Isoda	Temporary Worker, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	

	Nao Futagami	Temporary Worker, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo	

* Media and Diversity Forum (Initiative for Media's Diversity at the University of Tokyo)

** Safe Campus Youth Network Faculty Team