

Yukiko Uchida Lab Information

Director: Yukiko Uchida, PhD. (Professor, Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University)

E-mail: uchida.yukiko.6m@kyoto-u.ac.jp

About our research

This is a cultural psychology research lab. The methodology used is based on social psychology, which includes experiments and surveys. In particular, we conduct international comparison research, as well as social psychological experiments and fieldwork with various Japanese companies and local communities. Because cross-cultural collaboration is a main part of our research, we have many foreign students and short-term/long-term visiting scholars from overseas, and thus the regular lab meeting is now conducted mainly in English. Recent research themes include well-being and emotion (e.g., happiness, awe), the relationship between social-cultural environment and the mind, cultural change and transmission, social structure (social hierarchy) and cognition, organizational culture and regional culture. Because we use experimental social psychology methods (experiments/surveys), we are seeking students who possess a **strong basic knowledge of psychology, practical experience running experiments, and statistical analysis skills.**

Joining the lab as a graduate student

Although Professor Uchida is primarily affiliated with the Kokoro Research Center at Kyoto University, she supervises graduate students at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies. Therefore, students need to take the entrance exam for the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University.

If you are interested in the lab, please contact us via this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/DKaHhP3fsy>

NOTE:

The exam for social/cultural psychology will be given in Japanese, so sufficient knowledge of the field as well as of the language is required.

For details please visit the website: <http://www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jinkan/entrance/>

***We are not recruiting research students (研究生) except for MEXT scholarship students, so we regrettably cannot respond to inquiries about accepting research students who are not funded by the MEXT scholarship. Thank you for your understanding.**

Students need to have enough Japanese language ability to live in Japan and to take classes in Japanese after being enrolled in university.

It is recommended for students to apply for the MEXT scholarship in their own country before coming to Japan. With the MEXT scholarship, students are able to stay in Japan before the entrance exam

as "research students" and take classes to improve their Japanese level.

For details please visit the website:

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/1319066.htm

Graduating with a PhD or a master's degree

The course basically has a 5-year track — at least 2 years for the master's course (M1-M2) and 3 years for the doctoral course (D1-D3), respectively, to receive a PhD. Most of the lab's past students (67%) completed both the master's and doctoral course. However, there is an option to graduate after 2 years of the master's course and use theories and methods of cultural and social psychology outside of academia.

Entering the lab from the beginning of the doctoral course (Transferring from another university's master's to Kyoto University's D1)

As a general rule, we focus on training graduate students from the beginning of their master's degrees until the end of their doctoral studies. For this reason, the lab's current master's students and MEXT scholarship students are given priority for entrance into the doctoral course, and accordingly we generally do not accept new students (other than MEXT scholarship students) who would like to begin studying at the lab following the completion of a master's degree at another university or lab.

However, if the places for incoming D1 students in the lab have not already been filled by current master's students or MEXT scholarship students, we may consider accepting applications from potential students who have completed a master's degree in a field related to cultural and social psychology, and who have some degree of research experience. In this case, please contact us in advance before applying.

Current members of the Uchida lab (November 2021)

Professor 1

Associate Professor 1

Assistant Professor 1

Postdoctoral Researcher 1

PhD candidates 2

Master's students 3

MEXT scholarship Research Students 0

Research trainee (研修員) 1

Recent research topics

Happiness and other emotions, relationships between socio-ecological environment/culture and the mind, cultural change and transmission

Social structures (social class) and cognition

Company culture, local culture, etc.

Machine learning approaches for research about the above topics

Ideal candidates for the lab

- **Students must be able to take the entrance exam in social/cultural psychology.** This knowledge is essential for the research you will conduct after entering the lab, so a high level of proficiency in social psychology is assumed.
- Students should have experience **conducting experiments or surveys as part of their undergraduate training.** In psychology, in addition to the understanding of theories and phenomena that can be learned from textbooks, the understanding of how to use research methods to test and demonstrate such phenomena is also essential.
- Collaboration (and particularly international collaboration) is the foundation of cultural psychology research. Our lab also actively pursues interdisciplinary and industry-academic collaboration. We would like to recruit students who have the motivation to communicate with many types of people.
- **Statistical analysis is an essential part of the research methodology we use.** We would like to recruit students who have a basic knowledge of statistical methods used in psychology as well as practical experience conducting statistical analyses.
- Please look into what kind of research we do at the lab (such as by reading the papers we have published) and think about what kind of research you would like to conduct as a lab member, and contact us before you take the entrance exam using the form below. In addition to the skills and motivation described above, we prioritize finding students whose interests match the research we conduct.
- Required statistical knowledge:
In addition to a strong understanding of t-tests, correlations, chi-squared tests, etc., please make sure you have a basic understanding (e.g. in what situations the following should be used and what research designs they are appropriate for) of ANOVA, multiple regression analysis, and factor analysis.

Please contact us via this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/DKaHhP3fsy>

List of books/papers for your study

* Please note that it is not guaranteed that questions on the entrance exam will be covered in the books and papers listed below.

Books

“Cultural Psychology” Steven J Heine

“Culture of Honor” Nisbett & Cohen

“Research Design Explained” Mitchell & Jolley

「これからの幸福について：文化的幸福観のすすめ」 内田由紀子 新曜社

「社会心理学概論」 北村英哉・内田由紀子 ナカニシヤ出版

「社会心理学キーワード」 山岸俊男 有斐閣

Papers

- Markus, H. R., & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. *Psychological review*, 98, 224-253
- Kitayama, S., Park, H., Sevincer, A. T., Karasawa, M., & Uskul, A. K. (2009). A cultural task analysis of implicit independence: comparing North America, Western Europe, and East Asia. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 97, 236-255
- Uskul, A. K., Kitayama, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Ecocultural basis of cognition: Farmers and fishermen are more holistic than herders. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105, 8552-8556.
- Kitayama, S., Ishii, K., Imada, T., Takemura, K., & Ramaswamy, J. (2006). Voluntary settlement and the spirit of independence: Evidence from Japan's northern frontier. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 91, 369-384
- Kitayama, S., Duffy, S., Kawamura, T., & Larsen, J. T. (2003). Perceiving an object and its context in different cultures A cultural look at new look. *Psychological Science*, 14, 201-206.
- Uchida, Y., Kitayama, S., Mesquita, B., Reyes, J. A. S., & Morling, B. (2008). Is perceived emotional support beneficial? Well-being and health in independent and interdependent cultures. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 34, 741-754.
- Uchida, Y., & Kitayama, S. (2009). Happiness and unhappiness in east and west: themes and variations. *Emotion*, 9, 441-456.
- Uchida, Y., & Ogihara, Y. (2012). Personal or interpersonal construal of happiness: A cultural psychological perspective. *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 2, 354-369.
- Norasakkunkit, V., & Uchida, Y. (2011). Psychological consequences of postindustrial anomie on self and motivation among Japanese youth. *Journal of Social Issues*, 67, 774-786.
- Uchida, Y., Takemura, K., Fukushima, S., Saizen, I., Kawamura, Y., Hitokoto, H., Koizumi, N., & Yoshikawa, S. (2019). Farming cultivates a community-level shared culture through collective activities: Examining contextual effects with multilevel analyses. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 116(1), 1-14.