

# Research in Social Development: Collaborations between the UK and Japan

Workshop Report: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, Stoke on Trent, UK

The ESRC is working with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science to fund projects conducted collaboratively between researchers from the UK and Japan. As such, the purpose of this workshop was to bring UK and Japanese researchers together to scope working partnerships with shared research interests. This workshop was held the day before the British Psychological Society Developmental and Cognitive Section Conference 2019 in Stoke on Trent, UK, as an official preconference event. In this report we share



the details of the event, the feedback from our attendees, and the plans for our next workshop. We would like to thank everyone who helped organise the workshop as well as our fantastic speakers and attendees!



## Research in Social Development: Snap Shot Talks

The workshop began with a series of snap shot talks to present opportunities to identify collaborators who use a wide range of research techniques. These techniques were briefly introduced and described, followed by Q&A.



**Olly Robertson** (Keele University, above left) shared her expertise on using heart-rate changes as a signal of emotional response. **Dr Lizzy Sheppard** (University of Nottingham, above right) described the uses of eye movement recording in developmental research.

**Dr Shoji Itakura** (Doshisha University, right) shared his techniques used in social robotics.



**Dr Elian Fink** (University of Cambridge, below left) explored the advantages of using Language Environment Analysis (LENA) devices and software. **Dr Hajimu Hayashi** (Kobe University, below right) shared how he conducts research into social understanding using experimental settings with actors.

**Dr Yuichiro Kikuno** (Shimane University, right) described the near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) technique.



## Promoting Collaborations

Following the talks and Q&A, the attendees formed groups of researchers from the UK and Japan to plan a symposium, notionally for submission to the 2020 International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Prague. In planning a symposium, attendees can then launch their collaboration, ultimately with the aim of generating joint grant proposals. To further facilitate collaboration, one of the planned symposia was recognised by the award of funds to cover the costs of one UK-based researchers to visit their new collaborators in Japan.



Above: Professor Peter Mitchell makes suggestions for groups based on research interests.



Above: Attendees register their interest in each research group. Right: Dr Yvonne Skipper (University of Glasgow) is pictured (centre) with her UK- and Japan-based collaborators. Below: Attendees enjoy dinner and live music.



## Evening Reception

Following the workshop, we offered our attendees a high quality authentic Japanese dinner and live Japanese music played on a traditional instrument (Koto).

Attendees introduced themselves and their research area on a live feed display to help identify collaborators with common interests. Upon identifying potential collaborators, each group separated to work together to generate ideas for a symposium. Attendees presented a range of topics for their symposia, including how children develop understanding of minds according to ingroup or outgroup status, combining research techniques to study social understanding in autism, and how to address issues in cross-cultural research.

Following their presentations, the award of a flight was given to the top-voted symposium by the attendees. **Dr Yvonne Skipper** and her collaborators were awarded the flight to Japan for their symposium on children's interactions across childhood. Congratulations!



## Feedback and Future Plans

We were delighted that, according to feedback, 100% found the event useful and appropriate. 100% were also very satisfied with the quality of the presentations.

We are now planning our next event to take place at the Japan Society of Developmental Psychology in March 2020. We hope to see you there! If you have further questions, please email [peter.mitchell@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:peter.mitchell@nottingham.ac.uk) (European delegates) or [tsuji.hiromi@osaka-shoin.ac.jp](mailto:tsuji.hiromi@osaka-shoin.ac.jp) (Japanese delegates).