

Future design and experimental economics for intergenerational sustainability

Project Leader

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1. Objective

This project is aimed at:

A main research question in this project is “how can we educate and induce individuals, design and organize groups or societies to be intergenerationally sustainable for long-run survival and wellbeing of people?” Based on literature, scientists appear to have reached a consensus that intergenerational sustainability is compromised in many important aspects of economies, e.g., agriculture, various environmental issues and increasing government debts, when societies are developed and modernized under capitalism and democracy. Despite its importance, there have been few studies focusing on how people, groups and societies can be changed and induced by external interventions for achieving intergenerational sustainability. Future design (FD) is a relatively new approach we advocate as experimental economics research in Kotani lab and Research Institute for Future Design at Kochi University of Technology to think and understand the possible changes, processes and ways for people, groups and societies to be able to be sustainable in long run (See my publications for the details). Particularly, FD considers that one effective approach is inducing people to take a perspective of future generations when they make decisions for long-run sustainability. This project mainly takes an experimental economics approach, examining individual ways of thinking or preferences, social devices and policies to enable people, groups and societies to intragenerationally and intergenerationally cooperate with one another as well as to decide and behave for sustainability via FD research. By doing the FD research, we seek to contribute to development of societies for people and societies to consider that wellbeing and sustainability are ensured with expansion of future possibilities even under capitalism and democracy.

2. Project Outline

To that end, the project will consist of the following phases:

- (a) Economic experiments and field surveys that collect the data related to various FD or intergenerational sustainability issues, such as agriculture environmental degradation, global climate change and increasing government debt.
- (b) Identification or development of statistical methods to analyze the data related to the FD or intergenerational sustainability issues
- (c) Derivation of findings and conclusions from the data analyses related to the FD or intergenerational issues

3. Expected Performance

In this project, the successful candidate would be expected to:

- (a) Develop expertise in economic experiments and field surveys.

- (b) Deepen his/her knowledge and understanding of the behavioral sciences, economics, psychology, FD and the intersection among these three fields.
- (c) Analyze the data and develop some models to explain the phenomena observed in the field and experiments.

4. Required Skills and Knowledge

The successful candidate for this project will have the following knowledge and skills:

- (a) Some training in calculus, probability and statistics
- (b) Intermediate microeconomics
- (c) Strong intellectual interest in the following fields: experimental economics, development economics, natural resource economics and environmental economics
- (d) Eagerness and potential abilities to learn Linux and multiple programming languages including those for data processing such as R/Python

References

Koji Kotani's website <http://researchmap.jp/read0137216/?lang=english>

Moinul Islam's website <https://researchmap.jp/moinul?lang=en>

See our admission guidelines:

https://www.kochi-tech.ac.jp/english/admission/ssp_aft19oct/ssp_application_guideline.html

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