

The 3rd JIGE Global Doctoral Colloquium
Understanding Social Divides: Interdisciplinary Reflections on Society, Technology, and
Humanity
Conference Information

1. Overview

The 3rd JIGE Global Doctoral Colloquium invites doctoral students and early-career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to present their research, engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, and reflect on its broader social relevance. This colloquium aims to foster the exchange of scholarly insights, encouraging participants to reflect on the societal relevance of their work and to explore possibilities for collaborative research addressing contemporary global challenges. This event is organized as part of the JIGE project, a global education initiative co-led by Tohoku University, Kansai University, and Chiba University in partnership with 36 international universities.

This year's theme, "*Understanding Social Divides: Interdisciplinary Reflections on Society, Technology, and Humanity*" focuses on the growing visibility of social divides in contemporary societies. These divisions are reflected in various forms, including political polarization, economic and educational disparities, as well as tensions related to migration, ethnicity, gender, and religion. At the same time, rapid developments in digital technologies and social media have transformed how people connect and communicate, while also contributing to the fragmentation of information and public discourse. The increasing use of artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems further raises important questions about how these technologies may shape, reinforce, or amplify existing social divisions.

These developments raise important questions regarding social cohesion, governance, and the future of democratic and inclusive societies. In this context, the humanities and social sciences are expected to play a crucial role in examining the structures, institutions, and forms of knowledge that shape social divisions, and in exploring the possibilities for coexistence in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

This colloquium invites participants to engage in these issues from diverse disciplinary perspectives and to reflect on how their own research may contribute to understanding contemporary societal challenges.

- Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026, 9:00–11:00 AM (JST)
- Venue: Online
- Content: Research Presentations
- Participation Fee: Free
- Submission Deadline: Monday, September 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Noon)

2. Presentation Requirements

Eligibility: Presenters must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be affiliated with Tohoku University, Kansai University, Chiba University, or an international partner university of the JIGE project.
2. Be currently enrolled in a doctoral program or have obtained a doctoral degree within five years as of October 3, 2026.
3. Conduct research in the humanities or social sciences* (*including philosophy, literature, linguistics, history, human geography, cultural anthropology, law, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and education).
4. Attend the colloquium in its entirety (partial attendance is generally not allowed).
5. Complete the application process within the designated submission period.

Presentation Format: Please choose one of the following formats:

(A) Individual Presentation

- Presentation of individual research
- Presentation of collaborative research by a single presenter

Only one presenter's name can be listed in the abstract. In the case of collaborative research, the presenter must obtain prior consent from all co-authors and clearly indicate the collaborative nature of the work in a note within the abstract. The names of co-authors may also be included in this note.

(B) Group Presentation

Presented by two or more individuals. Only those presenting on the day can be listed as presenters in the abstract. If some co-authors will not be presenting, prior consent must be obtained from them. The names of non-presenting co-authors may be included in a note within the abstract.

Presentation Time: 30 minutes (15-minute presentation + 15-minute discussion)

Language: English or Japanese

Relation to the Common Theme: In addition to presenting their research, presenters are expected to mention the relevance of their research to this year's theme and the potential contribution of their research to understanding and addressing social divides.

3. Application Process

Please submit the following information via the Google Form by Monday, September 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM (JST). Google Form: <https://forms.gle/5YfcJLwm87Rv3YyW9>

- Presenter information (name, affiliation, year of study, etc.)
- Presentation language (English or Japanese)
- Title
- Keywords (3-5)
- Abstract (in the presentation language; English: no more than 250 words; Japanese: no more than 500 characters)

Abstracts should be prepared in the language of presentation, following the designated template. Please include the title, presenter information, keywords, and summary. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the colloquium's academic committee. If revisions are required, presenters will be notified and asked to make corrections within a specified period. All reviewers will maintain strict confidentiality, and abstracts will not be disclosed to third parties prior to publication.

Template:

<https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Template.docx>

Overview of JIGE

JIGE is an educational and workforce development initiative promoted by Tohoku University, Kansai University, and Chiba University. This project started in 2023 and will be promoted under MEXT's Inter-University Exchange Project until 2028. Aimed at a diverse audience from high school students to professionals, the project offers specialized virtual learning spaces containing interactive COIL/Virtual Exchange modules. These modules grant stackable micro-credentials, providing a pathway to higher education and career development.

Official Website: <https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Kokusai/JIGE/>

JIGE International Partner Universities

Listed in order of the project plan document.

United States:

Clemson University, Cornell University, DePaul University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Florida International University, Kapi'olani Community College, North Carolina State University, Northern Arizona University, Portland State University, The Ohio State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, University of California, The Pennsylvania State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Baylor University, University of Washington, University of Montana, Temple University, The University of Alabama, University of Cincinnati, Stony Brook University, The New School, University of Maine

Other Countries/ Regions:

São Paulo State University (Brazil), Western University (Canada), National University of Malaysia, San Pedro College (Philippines), Nanyang Polytechnic (Singapore), CEU Cardenal Herrera University (Spain), Soochow University (Taiwan), Panyapiwat Institute of Management (Thailand), University of Waterloo (Canada), University of Malaya (Malaysia), University of Regina (Canada)