

Forward

The “visualization of interrogation” is a key issue for the reform of Japanese judicial system. In order to have a fair and open criminal justice system in Japan, it is necessary to not only examine the existing legal and institutional issues, but also promote cross-disciplinary discussion among legal professionals and scholars in various fields in addition to collecting outstanding case studies in other countries.

Based on awareness of these issues, we organized an international symposium entitled “Transparency of Interrogation: Innovative Data Recording and Analysis by the Human Science” in July 2014 with the cooperation of the “Law and Human Science” project sponsored by the MEXT Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research and new academic area studies, “Translational Studies for Inclusive Society” project which is a MEXT-Supported Program for the Strategic Research Foundation at Private Universities, and Center for Forensic Clinical Psychology at Ritsumeikan University.

The symposium was conducted with a four-part structure. In the keynote session, there was a speech regarding the multi-lingual and cross-cultural communication issues in the legal practice, followed by a special lecture about the legal interviewing technique to children. In the aftermath, there were three sessions focused on Australia, South Korea, and Japan. Each session had presentations by law scholars and psychologists followed by comments from legal professionals in Japan. At the end, there was a general discussion session based on the topics brought by two Japanese law-psychologists. On the whole, there was a lively discussion transcending not only disciplinary cultures but also national cultures. This booklet

contains the transcripts of keynotes, international sessions, and general discussion sessions in the symposium.

In Japan, the discussion on the visualization of interrogation has been held only by legal practitioners and scholars so far. Therefore, we aimed at bringing many diverse people together at this symposium in the aim of sharing common issues and having a discussion toward a fair and open criminal justice. As a consequence, we are very happy that we could have lively discussion transcending disciplinary and national boundaries.

We expect that this booklet will become a clue to understand the trend and issues of criminal justice in Australia, South Korea and Japan. We are also hoping that this booklet will spark a wider debate on the visualization of interrogation to implement a better society.

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