

Preface

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Global Communication Studies 『神戸学院大学グローバル・コミュニケーション学会紀要』, published by the Society of Global Communication Studies of Kobe Gakuin University.

On April 1, 2015, the Faculty of Global Communication of Kobe Gakuin University was launched with the goal of nurturing students who can actively participate in a globally interconnected world. Three courses are offered in English, Chinese and Japanese studies, with the Japanese course being for overseas students. The courses aim to have their students develop the ability to fluently and effectively use the language that they are learning in small-group environments, where they can actively practice their skills and also have hands-on experience in interacting and working with students from different backgrounds in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Good language skills are essential but so the generic skills of critical thinking, innovativeness, and responsible citizenship.

With these goals in mind, the Journal of Global Communication Studies (JGCS) welcomes contributions in English, Chinese and Japanese on the education and research of language and global studies: Research Reports of innovative ideas, Research Notes on new avenues of research and educational activities, and Materials Reviews introducing books, documents, software or other materials that would be of interest to this Faculty. The first author must be a member in good standing of the Society of Global Communication Studies.

In this second decade of the 21st century, educators must prepare their students to become truly global citizens who have a good grasp of their identity, have the flexibility and adaptability to respect others, can communicate effectively, and can undertake collaborative work, becoming responsible leaders as the need arises. We ourselves were raised with concepts based in the 19th and 20th centuries. Our students will be facing a rapidly evolving world that many of us cannot even imagine. JGCS offers a forum where we can discuss and propose ideas and concepts to help guide our journey into a new world requiring global communication abilities.

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