

Greeting message

From Prof .Allan Young, Ph.D.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Professor of Anthropology,Marjorie Bronfman Chair in Social Studies in Medicine

Over the weekend, I had reason to leaf through the several volumes that you have either edited or co-edited, and that are based on papers given at various conferences sponsored by the Centre for Advanced Research on Logic and Sensibility. It was only after scanning the tables of contents that I grasped the Centre's achievement. What impressed me most is the scope of this enterprise,bringing together so many international scholars and diverse but connected objects of inquiry.

For me personally, the achievement is a vindication of the Enlightenment vision of human nature– one in which 'nature' encompasses not only the psychobiological nature of humanity, but equally the non-humans that constitute our nature, figuratively and literally.As you know, my professional life has been devoted to investigating and interpreting the nexus of logic and sensibility. I am especially proud that my own talks at the Centre are included in two of these volumes.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Allan Young

From Prof. Edward A. Wasserman

The University of Iowa, USA

Human reason was claimed by Rene Descartes to be the “universal instrument” that permits us to act flexibly and adaptively to any contingency we may encounter. Such a self-aggrandizing claim does not accord well with the facts of human experience, where pollution, overpopulation, and warfare continue unabated. David Hume seems to have been better attuned to the nature of human nature when he argued that even causal reasoning is predicated on basic associative processes that we share with nonhuman animals. Given these dramatically discrepant orientations, it is altogether appropriate that Keio University should launch a new international center to better understand human judgment and decision making: the Global Research Center for Logic and Sensibility. I salute this important effort.

From Prof. Zang-Hee Cho, Ph.D.

韩国 嘉泉医学大学神经科学研究所

Dear Professor Watanabe : Congratulation ! We all wish your success and sincerely hope you can accomplish the goal of understanding the principles behind the logics and sensibility. With good wish and for your future success.

ZH Cho

From Prof. Ludwig Huber, PhD
University of Vienna
Department of Cognitive Biology

I am very pleased to hear these exciting news and would like to congratulate you on the development of this new centre in Tokyo. This is again a very promising endeavor and at the right time. Reconsidering how we humans cope with tragedies like the one that happened in Japan last year is a very important and timely business. Only the best scientists around will have a chance to make significant progress. Success will critically depend on interdisciplinary collaboration. One discipline alone will quickly become stuck in their narrow approach to such a gigantic problem. Politicians and law people need to hear what cognitive scientists, among others, have to say if they want to improve. Invited by my friend Shigeru Watanabe, I had the chance to participate in the last "Global Research Center for Logic and Sensibility" and can confidently say that this project has a very high potential to make significant contributions again. Personally, I would like to express my gratitude, because it was one of the most exciting experiences in my scientific career. I very much enjoyed traveling to Japan (twice), meeting brilliant colleagues at Keio University and enjoying the inspiring atmosphere of the city and the country. Let me end with this phrase by Piet Hein: "The way to wisdom? Why, it's plain, and easy to express: to err, and err, and err again, but less, and less and less."

I wish you all the best for the future.

Ludwig

From Prof. Hans-Joachim Bischof
Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Biologie
Lehrstuhl für Verhaltensforschung

Dear Professor Watanabe,
congratulations for the foundation of the "Global Research Center for Logic and Sensibility" which intends to investigate the basis of human judgement. This is a very important question worldwide because the growing number of global problems, be it the global warming, natural disaster, or the increase of violence by individuals as well by states have to be assessed properly to find solutions. Your country had to face a big catastrophe recently, and this is obviously a special motivation to found such a center there. I wish you and your colleagues all the best for the upcoming conference and the whole adventure. Based on my own experience according to the scientific success of the preceding COE on the same subject but with a different direction of impact, I have no doubt that the present research center will become a success.

With kind regards

Bischof

From Prof. Toru Shimizu, Ph.D.

University of South Florida

Associate Chair and Professor of Psychology

To Dr. Watanabe,

Congratulations on the inauguration of the new Global Research Center for Logic and Sensibility.

For the past several years, the Global COE Program at Keio University produced exceptionally fruitful achievement to improve our understanding of the human mind. I am relieved and delighted to hear that the commitment initiated by the Global COE Program will not fade away, but carry on through the new Global Research Center for Logic and Sensibility. Due to the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami last year, there is no doubt that the coming years will be challenging for the people of Japan. More than ever, it is critical to understand how logic and sensibility affect the decision making process in order to promote a healthy society and avoid future mistakes.

I trust that the new Center will become a premier institute for research and education.

Sincerely,

Toru Shimizu, Ph.D.

Associate Chair and Professor of Psychology

University of South Florida

Prof. Dominique Lestel, Ph.D.

École Normale Supérieure, France

As a French philosopher of the country where Descartes has lived, I have been deeply interested to know that Keio University has made the decision to start a new research center being based upon logic and sensibility. « Descartes' error », as Antonio Damasio has called it, is more the error of a culture, the Western one, than just the error of a single man. On the reverse side, it is not a surprise that such a center exists in Japan, a country that has become a true virtuoso in the difficult art of meeting opposing positions such like modernity and tradition. In that way, I have in mind the domain of autonomous robotics, in particular about androids on which conception Japan has become a world leader. That domain of research and design has put the interfaces between logic and sensibility at the heart of the works of scientists and engineers involved within. We already knew that logicians were not very fond of sensibility but are condemned to live with logical robots that exhibit an exquisite sensibility – or that show all the symptoms of it, that is largely enough. Logic and sensibility are always together at the heart of living beings, as anthropologist, cyberneticist, ethologist and epistemologist Gregory Bateson always recalled it, and I am sure that Bateson (one of the brightest mind of the 20th century) would have appreciated very much a Research Center on Logic and Sensibility. That it be funded at Keio University, a university very important not only for the logic part of me but also for my sensibility is a very good news for me. I wish it could have a long and fruitful life!

Dominique Lestel, Ph.D.