

Workshop on Religion and the Contemporary World

Subject &
Overview

This workshop is a joint project launched in October 2023 by the Kajima Institute of International Peace and the PHP Research Institute, a policy think tank, with the aim of deepening a multifaceted understanding of the role religions play in politics, economies, and societies.

The countries of North America and Western Europe, which have formed the core of the world system since the beginning of the modern era, are no longer as preeminent as they once were. Civilizational powers with cultural backgrounds distinct from the Judeo-Christian tradition are now rising to prominence. This shift underscores the importance of understanding the religions that underpin each civilization when considering a functional international order.

Despite its significance, understanding of religion in Japan remains limited—particularly in the realms of politics and management.

There is little recognition of the role religion plays in politics, economies, and societies.

To address this issue and related concerns, we will invite guest lecturers to speak on topics such as the interplay between religion and trends in contemporary society, the influence of religion on politics and societies in major countries, and the global development of particular religions.

Through a series of focused discussions, we aim to shed light on the significance of religion in international politics and socioeconomic affairs.

Subject & Overview	<p>The findings of the workshop will be widely shared with the public, primarily through publication in the monthly magazine <i>Voice</i> (published by PHP Institute, Inc.). We will also actively work to raise awareness across the sectors of politics, government, business, and academia.</p> <p>In fiscal year 2024, we held eight study sessions focusing on the interplay between religion and the contemporary world, including international politics.</p>
Period	October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025
Meetings held (FY2024)	<p>Eight case study sessions were held with guest speakers.</p> <p>One key study session was conducted by the group's core members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Case Study Session <p>Date and Time: May 28, 2024 (Tue.), 15:30–17:30</p> <p>Topic: <i>The Characteristics of Islamic Civilization and Contemporary Religious Revival</i></p> <p>Guest Speaker: Kazuya Nakamizo (Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University)</p> <p>*Published in <i>Voice</i>, September 2024, as “The Indian General Election and the Future of Hindu Supremacism”</p>

Meetings held • Fifth Case Study Session

(FY2024)

Date and Time: June 17, 2024 (Mon.), 18:00–20:00

Topic: *Ukraine–Russia Relations as Seen by Eastern Orthodoxy*

Guest Speaker: Sanami Takahashi (Lecturer, Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University)

*Published in *Voice*, December 2024, as “The Invasion of Ukraine and the Geopolitics of the Orthodox Church”

• Sixth Case Study Session

Date and Time: July 11, 2024 (Thu.), 15:00–17:00

Topic: *The Impact of Judaism and Jewish Society on International Politics*

Guest Speaker: Ryoji Tateyama (Professor Emeritus, National Defense Academy of Japan)

*Published in *Voice*, December 2024, as “The Huge Trend of ‘Greater Israel’”

• Seventh Case Study Session

Date and Time: October 10, 2024 (Thu.), 18:00–20:00

Topic: *Gender and Religion in Muslim Societies*

Guest Speaker: Namie Tsujigami (Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University)

*Published in *Voice*, January 2025, as “Why Is ‘Islam and Gender’ an Issue?”

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- Meetings held (FY2024)
- Eighth Case Study Session
Date and Time: December 17, 2024 (Tue.), 16:00–18:00
Topic: *China's Religious Conditions and Beliefs*
Guest Speaker: Yukihiro Kawaguchi (Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University)
*Published in *Voice*, December 2024, as “Norms of Religion and Beliefs in China”
 - Ninth Case Study Session
Date and Time: January 17, 2025 (Fri.), 14:00–16:00
Topic: *Islam in Contemporary Turkish Society*
Guest Speaker: Fumiko Sawae (Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University)
*Published in *Voice*, April 2025, as “The Future of the Islamic Supremacy of the Erdoğan Administration”
 - Tenth Case Study Session
Date and Time: January 21, 2025 (Tue.), 18:00– 20:00
Topic: *Religious Conditions in Latin America*
Guest Speaker: Norihiro Okubo (Professor, Faculty of Law, Keio University)
*To be published in *Voice*, forthcoming

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- Meetings held (FY2024)
- Eleventh Case Study Session
Date and Time: February 18, 2025 (Tue.), 15:00–17:00
Topic: *The Position of Evangelicals in the U.S. Based on the Results of the Presidential Election*
Guest Speaker: Saho Matsumoto (Professor, College of International Relations, Nihon University)
*Published in *Voice*, February 2025, as “‘Religious Votes’ That Changed in the U.S. Presidential Election”
 - First Key Study Session
Date and Time: March 14, 2025 (Fri.), 16:30–18:00

Members

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