

# Study Group on Future of Territorial Space and Regional Economics and Finance

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**Subject** This group is formed of young and mid-career researchers to investigate ideals for the structure of national territory going forward now that Japan is facing depopulation, a declining birthrate, and demographic aging. According to the “Grand Design of National Spatial Development toward 2050,” 60% of the country’s regions will lose half of their populations (and 20% will become completely depopulated); the structure of national territory is changing rapidly. Further, the changes to working patterns prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to change the structure of cities as well, including shortening the distance between home and workplace. These changing environmental conditions have major implications for Japan’s economy, society, and the government’s policy response. While there is a body of research on changing demographics, fiscal policy, and social security, very little of this research is tied to the structure of national territory and spatial heterogeneity. This group therefore invites guest speakers who are experts in national land planning, macroeconomics, and other areas, and holds broad-ranging discussions to consider socioeconomic trends, such as demographic changes and income inequality, as well as optimal policies for national and local governments, while incorporating spatial factors, including the structure of national territory and cities.

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Period	October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2022
Date held (FY2021)	<p>(1) April 27, 2021 Road Policy Turning Point</p> <p>(2) June 29, 2021 Biographical Sketch of Jun Shimokawabe People and National Territory in the 21 Century</p> <p>(3) September 9, 2021 Demographic Movement and Regional Economic Policy</p> <p>(4) December 21, 2021 Quantitative Analysis on the Macroeconomical Impact of Declining Birthrates and Demographic Aging</p> <p>(5) January 18, 2022 What can National Land Planning achieve?</p> <p>(6) March 7, 2022 Japan's Industrial Cluster Policy, Regional Industrial Development Policy and Policy Agenda</p>

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Members

**Nobuyuki Hiraizumi**

President, Kajima Institute of International Peace

Director, Kajima Corporation

Advisor, Avant Associates, Inc.

Director, The Board Director Training Institute of Japan

**Kazumasa Oguro, Ph.D.**

Director, Kajima Institute of International Peace

Faculty of Economics, Hosei University

**Toshihiro Okubo**

Professor, Faculty of Economics, Keio University

**Junko Koeda**

Professor, School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University

**Masayuki Nakagawa**

Professor, Faculty of Economics, Nihon University

**Mariko Nakagawa**

Assistant Professor, Institute of Economic Research,  
Hitotsubashi University

**Shunichiro Bessho**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo