

Profile



Miyoko Tsujimura is Professor of Constitutional Law and she received her PhD in Law from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo. She held positions as professor at Seijo University in Tokyo from 1992~1999, was a Visiting Professor at the *Institut de Droit Comparée* de l'Université Paris II in 1999 and from 2002-2004. She was the recipient of the 7th Shibusawa-Claudel Prize in 1990 for her publication, *Furansu kakumei no kempo genri* ("Constitutional Principles in the era of the French Revolution"), Tokyo, Nihon-Hyōron-sha, 1989.

Dr. Tsujimura was the first woman to achieve the rank of professor of Constitutional Law at a national university in Japan. She serves as Vice President for the Japan Section of the International Association of Constitutional Law, and as Vice President for the Japanese Association of Gender and Law, and as President of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality for the Science Council of Japan. She was Program leader of the 21st Century COE (Centers of Excellence) Program (2003-2008), which has evolved into the subsequent Global COE Program (2008-2012).

Research Activities

Dr. Tsujimura's publications on Constitutional Law & Comparative Constitutional Law include: *Jinken no fuhensei to rekishisei* ("The Universality and the Historicity of the Human Rights"), Tokyo, Sobunsha, 1999; and *Hikaku kenpo* ("Comparative constitutional law"), Tokyo, Iwanami Shoten, 2003; *Kempo* ("The Constitutional Law"), Tokyo, Nihon-Hyōron-sha, 3rd ed. 2008.

Since her 1976 presentation of the *Declaration of Women's Rights* by Olympe de Gouges, she has likewise pursued the field of Gender Studies, publishing in Japanese, English and French, such as: M. Tsujimura, *Gender to hou* ("Gender and Law"), Tokyo, Fuma-shobo, 2005; *Gender to jinken* ("Gender and Human Rights"), Nihon-Hyōron-sha, 2008; *International Perspectives on Gender Equality and Social Diversity* (ed.), Tohoku University Press, 2008; and *Egalité des Sexes : La Discrimination Positive en Question*, Société de la Législation Comparée, 2006 (dir. avec D. Lochak).

There are many remaining aspects of gender discrimination within the law, legal studies and the judicial proceedings. To explore and document these contemporary challenges, Tohoku University's 21st Century COE Program (Gender Law and Policy Center) published a 12-book series (Tohoku University Press, 2004-2008). The fruits of these past publications, lessons learned and the exploration of best practices around the world will be re-invested in support of the activities of the new Global COE Program on "Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization" (2008-2012 <http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/gcoe/english>).



Recent Major Publications



International Symposium in 2004

Message

When I was a graduate student, it was very difficult to get a position as a university lecturer because of sex discrimination and stereotypical attitudes (ie. "Women are not suited for Constitutional Law" etc.). In 2008, some 30 years later, the percentage of women researchers is still only at 12.4, and remains extremely low in the Sciences and Engineering in Japan. To ameliorate this situation, I am committed to promoting gender equality in the academic sphere, and to developing new theories and understandings of human rights and constitutional law which are enriched by the perspectives and research on gender equality.

Universities, in particular, have as their mission the development of the younger generation's talents to promote interdisciplinary research on gender equality. It is vital that they achieve a gender-equal society on university campuses, and in society at large. For this reason, Tohoku University is committed to promoting gender-equality through academic studies and internal policies, so that it may serve as a role model for other universities within Japan, as well as abroad.

It is our hope that we may work collaboratively, across sectors and disciplines, in the realization of a gender-equal society, one in which all individuals may develop their unique talents without discrimination on the basis of sex or race.