

NEWSLETTER

 Interviews with Introducing new faculty members for Fall 2024

We are restarting the APU Research Newsletter in AY2025!

Previously, we published APU's Research Office Newsletter. In it, we introduced various faculty's research, papers, etc. Other professors have said it was useful as a medium on campus to understand the research of other professors and we have received several requests from professors to bring it back. And so, we are restarting the APU Outreach & Research Office Newsletter! In this issue, we introduce the research of new faculty members. We will continue to issue this newsletter on a regular basis, so please keep an eye out!

Self-introduction

I graduated from University of California, Berkley, with a major in Psychology. While in school, I started a business with a close American friend and have over 25 years of entrepreneurial experience in Japan and the United States. I then joined the ranks of young people and earned an academic doctorate at the (former) Tokyo Institute of Technology. My research field was cognitive science, but since graduation I have returned to the medical field, and am now teaching and researching at APM. I am also a known Buddhist geek in my line of work.



Associate Professor
HIRAHARA Norimichi
College of International Management

Research Topic(s):

To survive in this increasingly complex society, organizations must continue to innovate. What is needed is what can be called "Organizational Development," which includes global human resource development. We are searching for ways to balance organizational and individual wellbeing, using the recent trend of psychological safety, etc., based on positive psychology as a clue as to where the balance lies. Our research keywords are organizational behavior, engagement, mindfulness, decision psychology, medical informatics, data science, etc.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad:

During my undergraduate years, I took on a variety of challenges! I myself am an aggregate of diverse fields, but all of my experiences have been useful to me now. I hope you will enjoy your undergraduate life and are trained by the "diversity in breadth" that is the key to innovation!

Graduate:

I encourage you to come to graduate school with a diverse background in tow. Diversity can be overwhelmingly powerful when thrust into a robust system. One of the most useful points is an objective academic perspective, and the best way to develop it is to write research papers in a rigorous academic manner. In parallel, always remain a pragmatist. The real skills you acquire as a one will be of immediate use in the real world of business.

Prospective Students:

In a world where AI will become overwhelmingly powerful in the future, only leaders who are trained in diversity of values and diversity of fields of expertise will succeed. There are very few places in Japan where such training is possible on a daily basis, and I believe that APU is the best environment among those institutions. Welcome to an environment full of challenges!

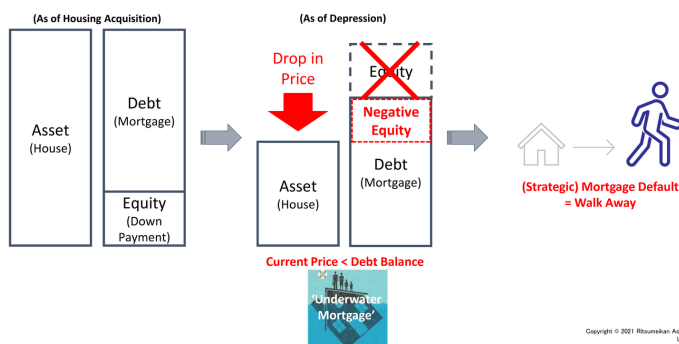
Self-introduction

Since October 2024, I have served as an Assistant Professor at the School of Management, primarily teaching finance courses. My area of expertise is real estate investment and finance. Prior to joining APU, I worked in the real estate industry where I was involved in tenant leasing, property development, and market research. I also pursued an academic career, earning my degree after studying in the UK. My hobbies include swimming and taking walks with my family, and I enjoy the rich natural environment of Oita.

Research Topic(s):

Global Financial Crisis, Negative Equity & Strategic Mortgage Default in the U.S.

- Many households defaulted during the Global Financial Crisis (GFC)
 - Negative Equity:**
 - Housing prices declined after loan origination, falling below the outstanding mortgage balance.
 - Strategic Default:**
 - Borrowers walked away when negative equity made repayment financially unreasonable, regardless of repayment ability. (Driven by the nature of non-recourse mortgages in the U.S.)



Assistant Professor
WATANABE Shotaro
College of International Management

Real estate market research can adopt various approaches, focusing on the properties themselves or on the companies and households involved in transactions. To date, my research has examined the surge in defaults on mortgage loans in the US following the global financial crisis of 2007. I am particularly interested in prior studies suggesting that households, which seemingly had the capacity to repay their mortgage loans, might have strategically chosen default. My work aims to further develop the theoretical framework surrounding this phenomenon.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad:

One of the great advantages of undergraduate education is the opportunity to be exposed to diverse knowledge and perspectives. After graduation, if you do not proactively seek out new experiences, your exposure to unfamiliar fields may gradually diminish. I encourage you to engage with many different people and to embrace new challenges and discoveries that you may not have encountered before.

Graduate:

Deepening your knowledge based on your interests requires significant time and effort. Graduate school offers a valuable period during which you can acquire specialized knowledge and focus on research. I sincerely hope that your intellectual curiosity and passion will serve as the driving force to improve society.

Prospective Students:

APU boasts a culturally diverse international environment that provides an ideal setting for self-reflection. While there are limits to what one can know individually, engaging in communication with various people will expand those boundaries. I would like to invite you to experience new learning opportunities and encounters at APU.

Self-introduction

Originally from Taiwan, I have an MBA and identified that many practical challenges arise on the manufacturing floor. After completing my master's degree, I earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering. I have several years of experience as an entrepreneur and have worked as a long-term consultant in the manufacturing and logistics industries. Additionally, I enjoy backpacking and have visited 40 countries worldwide. I also have an interest in boxing, although I have sustained several injuries during training.



Professor
CHEN Ping-Kuo
College of International Management

Research Topic(s):

My research focuses on the global manufacturing supply chain, with an emphasis on the following areas:

1. Supply Chain Coordination and Integration

The supply chain's operational environment is constructed from many independent partner firms, making collaboration highly complex and challenging. Although information technologies can facilitate collaborative efforts, most partners are reluctant to fully cooperate to protect their interests. This is one of the significant challenges facing global supply chains today. My research explores strategies for coordination and integration to ensure the willingness of independent partner firms to collaborate effectively.

2. Green Supply Chain

Research indicates that a significant proportion of environmental pollution originates from the manufacturing supply chain. Examples include wastewater and gas emissions during production, pollution from transportation, toxic gas emissions due to hazardous materials, and excessive energy consumption caused by overproduction. To achieve the goal of sustainable environmental development, my recent research has focused on the construction of green supply chains. Key topics include the willingness to collaborate for environmental sustainability, green knowledge sharing, and developing supply chain resilience.

3. Supply Chain Research Integrating AI, Blockchain, and Metaverse

Integrating information technologies into supply chain issues has recently become a critical topic. For example, Blockchain can monitor partner firms and effectively control pollution emissions, while Metaverse can reduce communication barriers in the collaboration process. The benefits of information technologies are evident, but their effectiveness ultimately depends on the design of the implementation strategies. Well-designed strategies can influence the perceptions and attitudes of partner firms, enabling effective management and ensuring long-term, stable cooperation. In light of this, I have been actively exploring the benefits of information technologies and the strategies for their successful implementation in recent years.

In addition to supply chain-related studies, I occasionally delve into entrepreneurship-related issues due to my years of entrepreneurial experience. However, my focus is not on entrepreneurship theory. Through interactions with numerous entrepreneurs, I observed that many young entrepreneurs fail due to misconceptions about entrepreneurship, excessive pursuit of innovation, and flawed strategies. To address these issues, my entrepreneurship research centers on **entrepreneurship education**. By reshaping entrepreneurial mindsets through education, I aim to help young entrepreneurs develop a proper understanding of entrepreneurship, gain a nuanced perspective on innovation, and learn better knowledge and strategies for building sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad:

College life is a valuable part of your lifetime. While Freud said personality develops by age seven, my work experience shows that college experiences influence social behavior and growth over the next 30 years. Therefore, enriching your college life—it's essential right now.

Graduate:

Graduate school represents a pivotal phase in developing professional expertise, where the efforts invested are intrinsically linked to career progression. Unlike the undergraduate experience, this period necessitates a clear decision regarding future aspirations in industry or academia. Upon identifying your chosen path, it is imperative to concentrate on acquiring the requisite skills in depth. To graduate students, my advice is unequivocal: do not squander this invaluable learning opportunity.

Prospective Students:

APU offers more than just an education, it's a gateway to a global mindset and transformative experiences. Here, you'll connect with diverse cultures, broaden your perspectives, and develop the skills needed to excel in an interconnected world. If you're ready to challenge yourself, grow, and take the first step toward achieving your dreams, APU is your place.

To APU Faculty

For research information, please refer to the following sources.



Research Support Page

https://en.apu.ac.jp/secure_staff-all/facultysupport/

Information about APU's internal subsidy system, application forms, and information on KAKENHI, etc. are posted here.



Outreach & Research Office News

Research information (internal research support, external research grant information, research event information, etc.) will be sent to your APU email address every other week,



Newsletter



The newsletter will be published regularly as a medium to introduce professors' research and research initiatives at APU. We hope that this will help you understand your colleagues' research activities, and we will also post it on our website to provide an opportunity for the community, society, and prospective students to learn more about APU's research!

Publishing: APU Outreach & Research Office (Research PR)
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