

Japan Children's Study

Longitudinal study for exploring the developmental mechanisms of social ability

Research topic

There is a dearth of longitudinal work into development- especially from infancy to toddler to child to adolescent is scarce or even not existing in my opinion. The research considers social and educational factors from a multidimensional perspective. The combination of work on DNA, social and environmental factors is highly contemporary and has the potential to make important scientific discoveries.

Research

The multidisciplinary approach combined with a longitudinal method is the most important aspect. The use of laboratory procedures as well as observation in the field is also an important aspect of the research project. This field of research really needs this kind of approach.

Team

The research team is very strong. The team comprises of individuals who can be considered experts in their own field that is brain sciences, pedagogy, pediatrics developmental psychology, and statistics. There is already a very strong and considerable track record of collaboration between the team members. The team has a number of very senior, very experienced members but also comprises of some younger members who are towards the beginning of their research careers. These younger members would learn a lot from working so closely with such experienced researchers and from working on such an obvious multi-disciplinary programme of research.

Outcome and future directions

The data can be analysed for each discipline separately and between disciplines with respect to developmental time and to chronological age. This considering the longitudinal aspect would already be unique contribution to science. Also the transitions between the different age period, e.g. infancy to toddler, toddler to childhood etc. etc. is of utmost importance in order to determine the factors that contribute to sociability. These can be different actors for every transition and has therefore repercussions of design and implementation of the educational programs in the future. The program deserves more global attention and therefore the research group should also seek for international collaboration.

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