

Research Assessment Symposium

What is COMON?

A Challenge for the Future Supporting Diversity and Sustainability

2025 **10/6** (Mon)
14:00-18:00

Kyoto University
International Science Innovation Building,
HORIBA Hall (Hybrid)

Fee
free

Program

Session 1

- 14:05-14:15** Introduction | Susumu Kitagawa
- 14:15-14:35** Insights on [COMON] by an Early Career Researcher | Uji Azusa
- 14:35-14:55** Assessment Reform in the Netherlands and Expectations for [COMON] | Leonie van Drooge
- 14:55-15:15** International Trends in Research Evaluation Reform and [COMON] | David Budtz Pedersen
- 15:15-15:30** University Reform and Research Evaluation in Japan in Light of International Trends | Takayuki Hayashi

Session 2

- 15:45-16:45** 3 Roundtable Discussions with Session 1 Speakers | Facilitated each by Isao Tanaka, Kenji Matsuura and Keisuke Koba

Session 3

- 17:00-17:45** Panel Discussion | Modelated by Isao Tanaka
- 17:45-17:55** Summary | Kenji Matsuura

Target Audience Any member of universities and anyone in higher education sector

Language Japanese and English (Simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

Capacity (on-site) 120 **Online** unlimited

Registration deadline It may close earlier if there are too many registrations.
Friday, October 3 2025

Registration <https://forms.gle/p7CDNYU9Aba4ZP438> ►



FROM METRICS to
DIALOGUE-BASED
CULTURE



京都大学
KYOTO UNIVERSITY



KYOTO UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF RESEARCH ACCELERATION

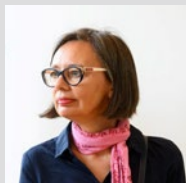


L-INSIGHT

The limitations and drawbacks of research evaluations based solely on publication and citation counts are acknowledged worldwide. Against this backdrop, Kyoto University has launched [COMON]—an initiative designed to build a sustainable research ecosystem through collaboration and co-creation by researchers themselves. Since then, in response to requests from faculty and staff, we have organized workshops and briefing sessions, holding more than ten rounds of discussions across our campuses.

This symposium will build on the perspectives gained

through these internal discussions, while also drawing on cutting-edge international examples of research evaluation, to identify key challenges for the future. We will revisit the philosophy and framework of [COMON] and further discuss the potential for co-creating a research culture based on researchers' own responsibility and collaboration. Beyond mere management or control of outcomes, we will consider what forms of evaluation can promote free and diverse research, inherit and advance academic traditions, and contribute to realizing the university's long-term vision.



Leonie van Drooge

Senior Policy Officer for the Dutch Medical and Health Sciences Council (ZonMw)

Leonie van Drooge currently works at ZonMw, the Dutch research funder in health, healthcare and well-being and is responsible for research on research, i.e. for research into programming and funding of research. Leonie has previously worked as senior researcher and consultant at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University and at the Dutch research policy think tank Rathenau Instituut. She has studied Chemistry and Science studies at the Universities of Amsterdam and Manchester. Her expertise is evaluation and societal impact of research. Her involvement with the Dutch evaluation protocol for research organisations SEP spans more than a decade.



David Budtz Pedersen

Professor of Science Communication and Impact Studies and Director of FRONTIER Center for Advanced SSH at Aalborg University

David Budtz Pedersen's research focuses on the management, communication and evaluation of science and technology. He is a regular adviser to the European Commission, the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science, and a Member of the Norwegian Research Council. He takes a special interest in open, responsible and collaborative research focused on creating positive impact in society. David has received competitive grants from the Danish Council for Independent Research, The Velux Foundation, The Villum Foundation, The European Commission, and Innovation Fund Denmark. He has about 150 entries on his list of publications ranging from research papers, research monographs, edited volumes, policy reports, op-ed columns and essays.



Takayuki Hayashi

Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Takayuki Hayashi's research interests include university evaluation, science and technology policy, and scientometrics. He previously served as Professor at the Research Department for University Evaluation, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, before assuming his current position in 2018. He is actively involved in shaping research assessment and related policies, serving as a member of both the Basic Plan Expert Panel and the Evaluation Expert Panel of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (Cabinet Office), as well as Chair of the Committee on the Promotion of Academic Development and Research Capability and Secretary of the Subcommittee on Research Evaluation of the Science Council of Japan. He also serves as a member of the Expert Panel on Policy Evaluation of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).



Azusa Uji

Associate Professor for Graduate School of Law at Kyoto University

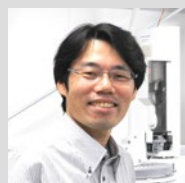
Azusa Uji earned her bachelor's degree in 2012 and obtained her Ph.D. from Kyoto University in 2018. Before assuming her current position, she conducted research at Harvard University and ETH Zurich. In 2019, she received the Masaharu Matsushita Memorial Academic Award for her doctoral dissertation. Her research focuses on negotiation processes and the institutional design of multilateral environmental agreements, including the development of a new plastic treaty. She also examines national and local public support for various environmental policies. Her recent articles have been published in the Journal of Peace Research, Sustainable Development, and Energy Policy, among others.



Keisuke Koba

Director and Professor for Center for Ecological Research at Kyoto University

Keisuke Koba's research focuses on aquatic ecology and biogeochemical cycles in aquatic environments, particularly organism-environment interactions in ecosystems. Prior to joining the current centre in 2016 and assuming his current position in 2025, he served as Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University; Visiting Researcher at The Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory; and Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.



Kenji Matsuura

Vice-Provost, Deputy Executive Vice-President for Research Promotion and Professor at Graduate School of Agriculture of Kyoto University

Kenji Matsuura specializes in insect ecology. He received the JSPS Prize and the Japan Academy Medal in 2011. He previously served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, and as Assistant and then Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Okayama University before joining the current position in 2012. Since April 2022, he has also served as Deputy Executive Vice-President for Planning and Coordination, Research Promotion, and since October 2024 as Vice-Provost at Kyoto University.



Isao Tanaka

Deputy Executive Vice-President for Research Promotion, Deputy Director-General for Office of Research Acceleration at Kyoto University

Also serving as Designated Professor, Professor Emeritus, and Director of the Division of Research Analysis and Evaluation, the Office of Research Acceleration, Kyoto University, Isao Tanaka's field of expertise is inorganic and metallic materials science. He has received the Philipp Franz von Siebold Award from the Government of Germany and the Hokokai Award from the Hattori Hokokai Foundation. Before assuming the current position in April 2025, he served at the Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, Osaka University, and as Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering.



Susumu Kitagawa

Executive Vice-President for Research Promotion, Director-General for Office of Research Acceleration, Distinguished Professor at KUIAS and iCeMS of Kyoto University

Susumu Kitagawa obtained his Ph.D. degree at Kyoto University and assumed his current position as Executive Vice-President in 2024. He pioneered the Chemistry of porous coordination polymers (PCPs) and metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), predicting their flexible framework, and developing applications in gas storage, separation, and conversion. He coined the term "soft porous crystals" (SPC), catalyzing a field now integral to materials chemistry. His contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including awards from the Chemical Society of Japan, the Medal with Purple Ribbon from the Japanese Government (2011), the Japan Academy Prize (2016), and the Chemistry for the Future Solvay Prize (2017).