



----- Contents -----

Editorial.....	1
JADE 2022 Recap.....	1
Mass media and nation-building, incorporating cultural diversity	3
Some tips to get research funds at KAKENHI.....	6

Editorial

Since the last JADE Letter was published, time has passed quickly. We apologize for not being able to publish it twice a year, as the former editors had done. This year, we publish the next letter in September.

The current issue starts with a recap of the JADE Conference last year. We look forward to seeing you all at JADE 2023. Tomohiro Hara then introduces recent articles on nation-building and diversity and his research in South Africa. He explains how he obtained key data for his research, which is informative for those interested in conducting a similar study. Kazushi Takahashi shares his experience applying for research funds, specifically KAKENHI funds. His article does not provide magic bullets, but we all, especially young development economists who do not have much publication, must have many things to learn from. We welcome readers to suggest topics for future Letters. Enjoy reading!

Yoko Kijima and Yoshito Takasaki, Editors, JADE Letter

JADE 2022 Recap

The [Fourth JADE Conference](#) was held online on April 9-10, 2022. Eleven papers were presented, one keynote presentation was presented, and two award ceremonies were held. Approximately 120 scholars and students participated in the Conference. Thank you for your contributions and participation.

Hayami Award

JADE established the JADE Award in Development Economics in memory of Yujiro Hayami ([Hayami Award](#)) to remember the achievements of the late Professor Hayami, one of the best Japanese development and agricultural economists. The selection of the Hayami Award is solely based on the quality of the paper presented at the JADE Conference.

The second Hayami Award was awarded to Mr. Masahiro Kubo (Ph.D. candidate, Department of Economics, Brown University). Masahiro, Congratulations!
 Title: The Golden City on the Edge: Economic Geography and Jihad over Centuries (co-authored with Shunsuke Tsuda)
[The selection committee's comments](#)

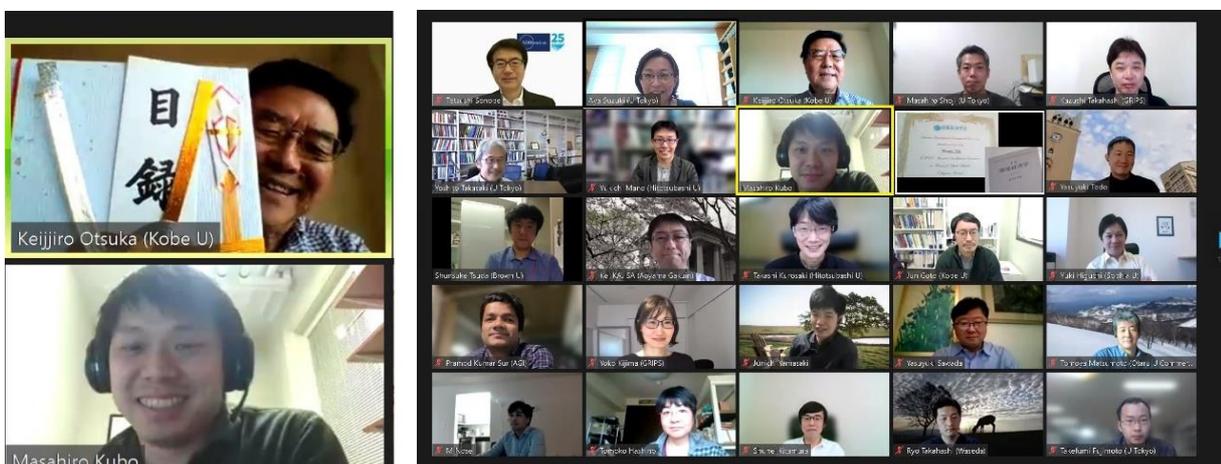
Message from the award winner, Masahiro Kubo

I am honored to have received the Hayami Award. Shunsuke Tsuda, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at Brown University, co-authored the awarded research.

Our study uncovers the evolution of cities and Islamist insurgencies, so-called jihad, in the process of the reversal of fortune over the centuries. In West Africa, water access in ancient periods predicts the locations of the core cities of inland trade routes founded up to the 1800s when historical Islamic states played significant economic roles before European colonization. After European colonization and the invention of modern trading technologies, along with the constant shrinking of water sources, landlocked pre-colonial core cities contracted or became extinct. We show that these deserted locations have today been replaced by battlefields for jihadist organizations. We argue that the power relations between Islamic states and the European military during the 19th century colonial era shaped the persistence of jihadist ideology as a legacy of colonization. Moreover, the concentration of jihadist violence in "past-core-and-present-periphery" areas in West Africa is consistent with a global-scale phenomenon.

Our study has a long window connecting the ancient, pre-colonial, colonial, and contemporary periods. In the spirit of Professor Hayami, we will tackle this research project with a deep understanding of human behavior.

Finally, I would like to thank JADE for the opportunity to present our paper and the committee for the award. I also thank my co-author Shunsuke Tsuda and my Brown and Hitotsubashi University advisors for their encouragement and support.



Fuwa Award

JADE established the JADE Award in Development Economics in memory of Nobuhiko Fuwa ([Fuwa Award](#)) to remember the achievements of the late Professor Fuwa of the University of Tokyo, who passed away at the young age of 56. The Fuwa Award aims to honor and support research by scholars who have made remarkable international research achievements that contribute to improving the social status of women in developing countries.

The first Fuwa Award was awarded to Dr. Jonna P. Estudillo (Professor, School of Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman). She conducted numerous household surveys in

various parts of Asia and studied poverty alleviation, rural development, education, and women's empowerment. She delivered the first Fuwa Lecture. Jonna, Congratulations!

[The selection committee comments and the Fuwa Lecture](#)

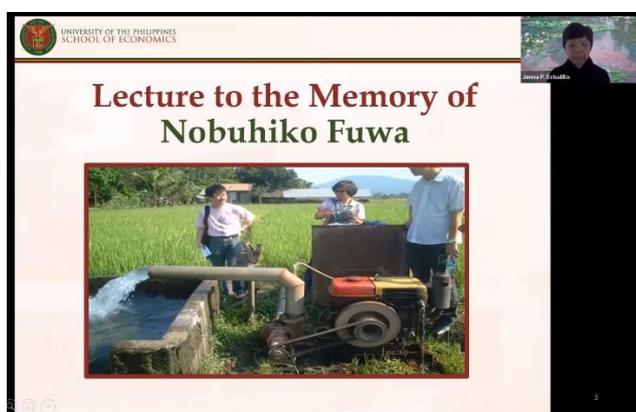
Message from the award winner, Jonna P. Estudillo

From Planting to Harvest

I grew up in a rice-growing village in the Philippines that rapidly transformed into an urban subdivision settlement because of the pressure of urbanization. As a young child, I enjoyed the seasonal cycle of rice production, from planting to harvest.

In adulthood, I realized that rice farming was no longer the dominant source of livelihood in my native village.

People have shifted their economic activities from farms to non-farm and overseas work. My research shows that such a strategy served as a pathway out of poverty for rural Filipinos and people in developing Asia at large.



JADE 2023

The Fifth JADE Conference will be held as a hybrid conference at the University of Tokyo on April 1-2, 2023. It is jointly organized by [the Centre for Economic Policy Research](#), [Trinity Impact Evaluation Research Centre](#), and [the Center for International Research on the Japanese Economy](#). The conference program appeared on the [JADE website](#).

Mass media and nation-building, incorporating cultural diversity

Tomohiro Hara

Assistant Professor, Musashi University

Several countries are culturally, ethnically, or religiously diverse. Preserving the cultural identities of minorities in such societies is challenging. On the one hand, many countries have experienced conflicts between cultural diversity and the traditional idea of the nation-state (Baumann, 2002): in polarized societies such as China, minorities have often been forced to be assimilated into majorities or excluded and marginalized from societies. In fractionalized societies such as Kenya, tensions between ethnic groups generate political instability. In the macro-growth literature in the late 1990s, diversity was seen as one of the sources of low economic growth (Easterly and Levine, 1997).

On the other hand, some countries have attempted to generate a unified identity from diversity and overcome such shortcomings.

In my recent study (Hara, 2022), I examined the role of mass media in promoting cultural diversity while preserving national unity. Some recent studies emphasize the importance of direct interactions in generating peaceful relationships between multiple groups (e.g., Mousa, 2020, Lowe, 2021). However, unless there is mass migration, such as in the case of Indonesia (Bazzi et al., 2019), scaling-up direct contact to the national level and creating a national identity is almost impossible. Others have highlighted the importance of education. Blanc and Kubo (2021) examined linguistic homogenization through education in France. Carlitz et al. (2022) investigated the Tanzanian *Ujamaa* policy, enhancing national identity through migration and education, and its impact on national identity. These education policies may be powerful if the central government is strong enough to mobilize local educators, but it might be difficult in many developing countries with low governmental capacities.

Television broadcasting, which I focus on in my study, could overcome such shortcomings of direct interactions and education: it could simultaneously convey the same information to a large audience. Because of this feature of mass media, recent studies show that mass media can indeed promote cultural assimilation. Blouin and Mukand (2019) show that messages from radio contributed to reducing the salience of ethnicity and increasing inter-ethnic trust in the post-conflict environment in Rwanda. Russo (2021) finds that radio in the early 20th century promoted cultural assimilation measured by the first names of immigrants in the United States. However, such cultural assimilation may not be favorable in many societies these days. As exemplified by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities in 1992, many countries and international society nowadays attempt to protect the rights of minorities and preserve diversity. In addition, national unity, which seems to contradict cultural diversity from the perspective of the traditional idea of the nation-state, is also crucial for stabilizing society.

I focus on South Africa, one of the countries that has attempted to achieve cultural diversity and national unity. After the experiences of strict racial segregation during the period of Apartheid, the new South African national government tried to overcome this legacy. The "Rainbow Nation" became the slogan of the country, aiming that different racial and ethnic groups coexist and making such differences a source of unity. The "Rainbow Nation" aim in South Africa is distinct from the cultural assimilation studied in previous studies because it aims to sustain cultural diversity.

Aligning with the national goal to pursue the "Rainbow Nation," television stations in South Africa promote programs to emphasize the co-existence of multiple racial and cultural groups. Multiple languages are intentionally mixed within a program to depict the cultural mixture of the country. Television broadcasts in South Africa during Apartheid mainly targeted the urban population, and coverage expanded in rural areas at the end of the 1990s and the mid-2000s (See Figure 1). I leverage the construction of new television transmitters in the 2000s, which creates variations both in time and space, as a source of identification variation for my analyses. I digitized the locations and features of television transmitters from government gazettes and used an engineering model to estimate the areas of television coverage (I used [Cloud RF](#), which has an amazing online interface to predict radio waves).

Using the variation I obtain on television coverage, I estimate its effects on language choices in elementary schools, which are associated with cultural choices, by event-study analysis. In South Africa, the national government allows for the choice of languages at the school level. The Annual School Survey (ASS) in South Africa contains the number of students taught each language, and I was fortunate enough that the Department of Basic Education of South Africa shared the data with me for research purposes. I find that exposure to television broadcasts increases the use of native languages in elementary schools by approximately three percentage points in the three years after the construction of transmitters and around four percentage points after five to seven years. These are large effects, given that the baseline proportion of students who use native languages is approximately 24 percent.

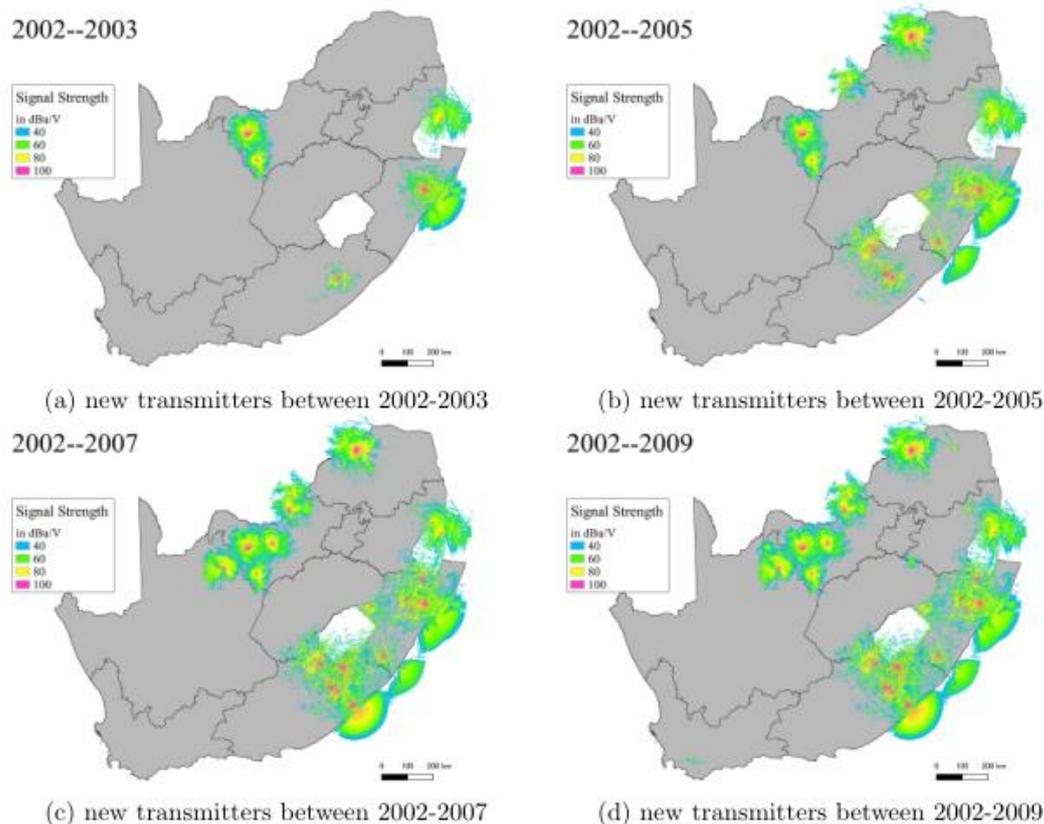


Figure 1: Construction of television transmitters over time

(Please find an animation of the evolution of television coverage on my webpage

<https://tomohirohara.wordpress.com/research/>).

This result is encouraging because it shows that television programs can promote cultural diversity. However, this may cause results that are not intended because each cultural group may want to diverge from national policies by strengthening their own identities. To investigate this possibility, I examine the effect of exposure to television broadcasts on voting outcomes for two political parties. One is a party that promotes the "Rainbow Nation" policy: I find that exposure to television increased the vote share for this party. A particular ethnic group predominantly supports the other party. I find that television did not impact the vote share for this party, implying that the unintended result of divergence is not happening, at least from a political perspective.

While my quantitative analyses encourage policymakers who confront trade-offs between diversity and unity, I should note that governments' use of mass media should generally be carefully monitored. Indeed, as the majority party in South Africa uses national broadcasts to spread their ideas, other media and political parties often criticize such broadcasts as propaganda (Plaut, 2014). Recent evidence has shown that mass media can be used to spread propaganda. In extreme cases, radio promotes support for the Nazis (Adena et al., 2015) and amplifies the genocide in Rwanda (Yanagizawa-Drott, 2014).

References

- Adena, Maja, Ruben Enikolopov, Maria Petrova, Veronica Santarosa, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, "Radio and the Rise of the Nazis in Prewar Germany," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2015, 130 (4), 1885–1939.
- Baumann, Gerd, *The Multicultural Riddle: Rethinking National, Ethnic and Religious Identities*, Routledge, 2002.
- Bazzi, Samuel, Arya Gaduh, Alexander D Rothenberg, and Maisy Wong, "Unity in diversity? How Intergroup Contact can Foster Nation Building," *American Economic Review*, 2019, 109 (11), 3978–4025.

- Blanc, Guillaume and Masahiro Kubo, "Schools, Language, and Nations: Evidence From Natural Experiment in France," *Working Paper*, 2021.
- Blouin, Arthur and Sharun W. Mukand, "Erasing Ethnicity? Propaganda, Nation building, and Identity in Rwanda," *Journal of Political Economy*, 2019, 127 (3), 1008–1062.
- Carlitz, Ruth, Ameet Morjaria, Joris M. Mueller, "State-building in Diverse Society," NBER Working Paper, 2022, 30731.
- Hara, Tomohiro "Building the 'Rainbow Nation' through Mass Media: Television, Cultural Diversity, and National Unity in Post-Apartheid South Africa," *Working Paper*, 2022
- Lowe, Matt, "Types of Contact: A Field Experiment on Collaborative and Adversarial Caste Integration," *American Economic Review*, 2021, 111 (6), 1807-44.
- Easterly, William, and Ross Levine, "Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1997, 112 (4), 1203-1250.
- Mousa, Salma, "Building Social Cohesion between Christians and Muslims through Soccer in Post-ISIS Iraq" *Science*, 2020, 369 (6505), 866-870.
- Plaut, Martin, "South Africa: how the ANC wins elections," *Review of African Political Economy*, 2014, 41 (142), 634–644.
- Russo, Gianluca, "Media and Assimilation: Evidence from the Golden Age of Radio," *Working Paper*, 2021.
- Yanagizawa-Drott, David, "Propaganda and conflict: Evidence from the Rwandan genocide," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2014, 129 (4), 1947–1994.
-

Some tips to get research funds at KAKENHI

Kazushi Takahashi

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Introduction

Obtaining funding from Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), Japan, is indispensable for efficient research. In particular, development economics research often requires large amounts of research funds for overseas field surveys and, more recently, for conducting economic experiments based on randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Even if research funds are provided by the university or research institution to which researchers belong, they are generally insufficient. In addition, applying for KAKENHI will involve thinking about the selling points of your research and explaining them succinctly, which will later help you publish your research in a good journal. In this short article, I would like to briefly describe how to prepare oneself for applying for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, especially for young researchers.

To describe my experience as a Principal Investigator, I have applied (number of times in parentheses) for projects in Young Scientist B (1), Scientific Research B (2), and Scientific Research A (1), all of which were accepted. I have also served as a reviewer for Scientific Research B for the past two years. Through these experiences, I feel that having attractive research content in the proposal is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for acceptance. As is often said, reviewers do not carefully read the text of an application from sentence to sentence, and although reviewers are most often economics experts, they are not experts in development economics and thus do not know the cutting-edge of the research theme. Therefore, how "impressive" your application is compared to other applications seems to be one of the deciding factors in its selection.

Tip 1. Write appropriate content at appropriate places

For example, in the application form for Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research B (latest version), you are required to write about

1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.
2. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment
3. Issues Relevant to the Protection of Human Rights and Compliance with Laws and Regulations

And under 1, there is an instruction that:

The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of (1) the scientific background for the proposed research and the "key scientific question" comprising the core of the research plan; (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project; (3) the circumstances leading to the conception of the present research proposal, domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research, and the positioning of this research in the relevant field; (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period; and (5) preparation status towards the achievement of the purpose of the research project.

The most important task is to cover everything required. Surprisingly, many applications do not follow these instructions when I review them. From the reviewer's point of view, it is a cause of confusion if the expected contents are not written where they should be. Therefore, it is essential to follow these instructions. In addition, it would be beneficial to make it easy to understand where each required content is written by adding subheadings.

The required and expected content differs depending on the research category of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. For example, in the case of Scientific Research B, the required contents are those explained above, but they differ from the Promotion of Joint International Research, Challenging Research, and others. The required length also differs across the research categories and schemes. Therefore, in your preparation, you must carefully read the guidance of each application form and follow the guidance. Note also that the application forms have changed year by year, so you must update your information.

Tip 2. Write up with a good structure

The most important part of your proposal would be the "summary," as all reviewers read at least that part and create an overall impression. Whether you can convey your research's motivation, purpose, and novelty in attractive ways in this section is key to success.

Once you catch the heart of the reviewer in the "summary," you will give a bit detailed explanation of the objective and methods of your research in the following part. Here, you are expected to explain the key research question(s), how the proposed study answers these research questions, and what the contributions to the literature are. In addition, you will describe the division of labor among team members and annual plans. You do not need to go into every detail, such as the estimation equations used in regression analysis. Rather, reviewers may want to understand why the proposed study is worth pursuing and how you plan to implement the entire research.

Good writing is one in which the general idea is presented first, and the questions logically and naturally arising from it are clarified as the text goes, leading the reader to the details. For example, if your proposal is most likely to evoke some endogeneity issues, it may be important to briefly explain the sources of endogeneity and how you would address it (although you do not need to present the actual specification as mentioned above). To succeed, having others review your proposal and give you feedback before you apply can be also very helpful.

Tip 3. Emphasize the feasibility of the proposed study

The proposal evaluation by referees is based on publicly available evaluation criteria, so you should be concerned about each criterion (which is different across research categories). In the case of Scientific Research B, for example, aside from the significance and relevance of the proposed study, two important criteria to evaluate the proposal for reviewers are (1) appropriateness of the proposed methodology and (2) appropriateness of research capacity and environments. Research capacity is partly evaluated by information on past publication records listed in "Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment" and by *Researchmap*, which can be accessed by clicking the link from the applicant's name on the application form. Therefore, the *Researchmap* should always be updated to its latest version. In addition, papers should constantly be published in academic journals (as a matter of course) to appear on the *Researchmap*.

This may not necessarily mean those without publications or poor publication records will fail. In my opinion, even if you do not have enough academic publication records, if you can successfully explain that you have already done sufficient preparation for the research you are applying for (e.g., coordination with local collaborators), that the research you are applying for is based on what you have done in the past (i.e., an extension of your past study), or that you have good collaborators with sufficient expertise on the topic, I believe that you will be able to obtain a relatively high evaluation. It is important to show that your research team and proposal deserve to receive funds with sufficient feasibility.

It is often asked whether it is better to gradually climb up the Grant-in-Aid ladder, as in, "You should apply for KIBAN B after you have experienced KIBAN C." Of course, KIBAN B is more competitive than C because of the larger amount of research funds and the limited number of seats. However, if you think your research plan and your team are worth KIBAN B, why should you start with Grant-in-Aid C? Just try.

Tip 4. Design of application form

Some people like to emphasize the main text by using key brackets, underlining, or changing the font to make the application easier to understand. While this may be effective for applications written in English, I feel that it does not help much with Japanese applications. In Japanese, there is a difference in the visual information provided by *hiragana* and *kanji*, and even if we skim only *kanji*, the overall meaning can be understood. In the case of English writing, there is no such difference, so I think it is effective to change the font and increase the emphasis so that the outline can be picked up.

Finally, when you write the division of roles and/or annual schedule in detail, it would be better to effectively use charts and/or diagrams so that the overview can be understood at a glance rather than writing everything in detail in the texts.

An example would be like (sorry for Japanese...):

	氏名	所属・役職	担当する主な役割
研究代表者	高橋和志	アジア経済研究所・研究員	研究総括
研究協力者	Christopher B. Barrett	コーネル大学・応用経済経営学部教授	ネットワーク分析&構造推定
研究協力者	Andrew Mude	国際家畜研究所(ナイロビ)・エコノミスト	涉外、保険需要&経済効果分析
研究協力者	池上宗信	国際家畜研究所(ナイロビ)・エコノミスト	インデックス計測、構造推計
研究協力者	Birhanu Tadesse	国際家畜研究所(アジスアベバ)・研究員	涉外、フィールドワーク管理
保険販売	Oromia Insurance Company		インデックス型家畜保険販売

	2014 年度				2015 年度				2016 年度			
	4-6	7-9	10-12	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	1-3
エチオピア	家計調査				家計調査							
各所属機関		データクリーニング IBLI 需要分析				データクリーニング 経済効果分析			構造推定・論文改訂			

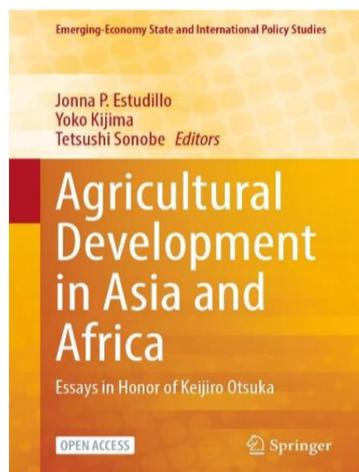
Conclusion

One thing for sure is that if you do not submit a research proposal, you will never receive any grants. So, polish and refine your research plan and then give it a shot. I wish you all the best of luck!

SPRINGER NATURE

ADVANCING
DISCOVERY

[New OA Book]



*Agricultural Development in Asia and Africa:
Essays in Honor of Keijiro Otsuka*

(Editors: Jonna P. Estudillo, Yoko Kijima, Tetsushi Sonobe)

Read and download for free:

<https://link.springer.com/978-981-16-9748-7>

or Access from your Smartphone:



If you have a book proposal, don't hesitate to contact: juno.kawakami@springer.com



コンサルタント募集中

開発コンサルティング企業・研究機関・その他民間企業にて
経験のある方を随時採用しています

【業務内容】 弊社が実施する調査・研究・コンサルティング業務
【期間・勤務時間・勤務地・待遇】 応相談

公正で自由で豊かな社会を 次の世代に

株式会社メトリクスワークコンサルタンツは、社会的課題の解決に向けた望ましい事業を推進することを目的に設立されました。設立以来、国際開発分野を中心にRCT等の信頼性の高いインパクト評価デザインを用いた効果検証、エビデンスを活用した意思決定を実践するための組織の制度設計・体制整備、研修・人材育成、研究者と実務家のマッチングなどを行っています。

株式会社メトリクスワークコンサルタンツ

〒160-0004 東京都新宿区四谷 2-11-8 オフィスコート四谷 4F
Email: info@metricswork.co.jp Tel: 03-6260-9926
<https://metricswork.co.jp/>



ご関心のある方、[こちら](#)を参照ください！