


## 【Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research】

Social scientific research using large-scale surveys to understand and resolve social disparities, inequalities, and divisions

|  |                        |   |                                 |
|--|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
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|  | Project Information    | Project Number : 23H05402   | Project Period (FY) : 2023-2029 |
|  |                        | Keywords : stratification, disparity and inequality, social division, surveys |                                 |

## Purpose and Background of the Research

### ●Outline of the Research

The eighth round of Social Stratification and Social Mobility (SSM) Survey, which has been conducted decennially since 1955, is scheduled to begin in 2025. This comprehensive survey aims to explore the relationship social changes and the prevalent disparities, inequalities, and social divisions within Japanese society. We will achieve this by studying the trends spanning over seven decades. In this forthcoming survey, we also plan to extend the scope of our research to include individuals who weren't encompassed by the previous survey design. Moreover, we intend to examine the mechanisms engendering disparity and inequality through follow-up surveys and survey experiments. Our project plan is presented in Figure 1.

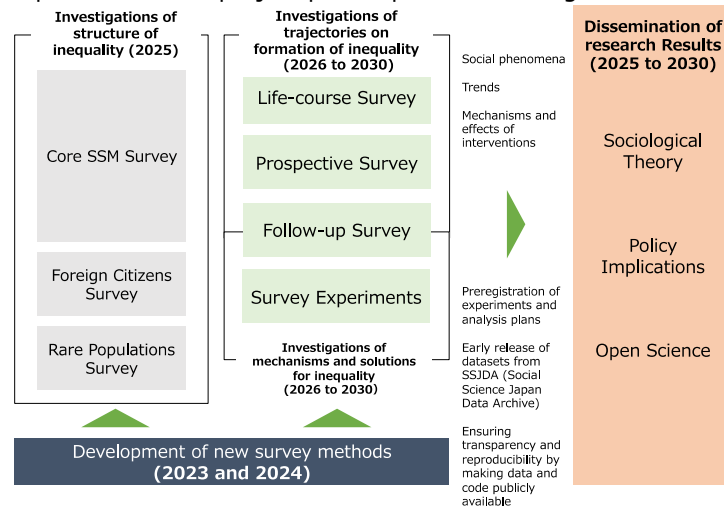


Figure 1. Overview of the 2025 SSM Survey Project

### ●Disparities, inequalities, and social divisions

Contemporary society is characterized by major social changes such as globalization, an aging society with a declining birthrate, and diversification of ways of life. Moreover, in recent years, disparities based on socioeconomic status have become more severe and what can be called "new" disparities have emerged. In particular, the spread of the new coronavirus and unstable political and social conditions are said to have manifested a division of society based on socioeconomic status. Under these circumstances, there is an urgent need to understand the reality of disparities and inequalities in "fragmented and diversified societies" and to elucidate the mechanisms that give rise to such disparities. We will approach the mechanism through analysis of SSM survey data accumulated over the course of many decades.

### ●Conducting the 2025 SSM main survey

SSM survey data analysis from 1955 to 2025 will reveal the state of disparities, inequalities, and social divisions in contemporary Japanese society. Foreign residents, Japanese living abroad, people with difficulties in living, school dropouts, sexual minorities, etc. are also included.

### ●Conducting the follow-up surveys

Collect and analyze new data that could reveal mechanisms for resolving disparities, inequalities, and social divisions through follow-up surveys and survey experiments from 2025 to 2030.

The survey schedule is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey Schedule

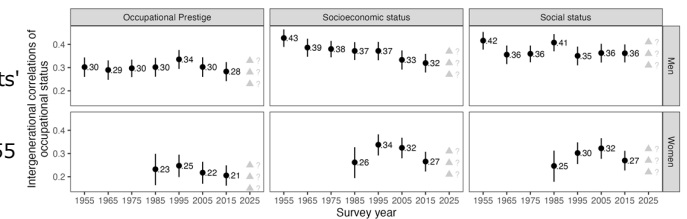
| Fiscal year     | Survey Schedule  |
|-----------------|--|
| 2023 (1st year) | Pre-survey (October 2023)<br>Pre-survey (January 2024)   |
| 2024 (2nd year) | Pre-survey (preliminary July 2024)<br>Sampling (December and January)<br><b>1st Main Survey (January - March 2025)</b>             |
| 2025 (3rd year) | <b>2nd Main Survey (April/May 2025)</b><br><b>3rd Main Survey (June/July 2025)</b><br>1st follow-up survey (January-February 2026) |
| 2026 (4th year) | 2nd follow-up survey (July-August 2026)<br>3rd follow-up survey (January-February 2027)  |
| 2027 (5th year) | 4th follow-up survey (July-August 2027)<br>5th follow-up survey (January-February 2028)  |
| 2028 (6th year) | 6th follow-up survey (July-August 2028)<br>7th follow-up survey (January-February 2029)  |
| 2029 (7th year) | 8th follow-up survey (July-August 2029)<br>9th follow-up survey (January-February 2030)  |

## Expected Research Achievements

### ●Conduct and analyze data from the 2025 SSM survey

We conduct (1) trend analysis and international comparative analysis of disparities, inequalities, and social divisions (For example, Figure 2), and (2) measurement of social awareness, attitudes, and lifestyles and analysis of their determinants. We also conduct a survey of groups that have been treated peripherally, including residents of foreign nationality, and compare the results of the survey with those of conventional Japanese subjects.

Figure 2: Change in Correlations between Parents' and Children's Occupational Status Over Time (SSM survey data from 1955 to 2015)



### ●Conduct follow-up surveys and survey experiments and analyze data

Follow-up surveys and survey experiments from 2025 to 2030 will be used to identify changes in the socioeconomic status of individuals and families, to identify changes in social awareness and attitudes, and to conduct surveys on topics of social, political, and cultural importance at that point in time. In addition, we will use various methods to collect more data and understand how to reduce disparities, inequalities, and social divisions. These methods include survey experiments with random question assignment, surveys asking about children's situations, linking social network service (SNS) information, using geographic information systems, and assigning census information.

### ●Significance as Specially Promoted Research

The significance of this specially promoted research is researchers on social stratification and inequality will work together to (1) clarify the current situation of disparity and inequality in Japanese society and the mechanisms for solving it, (2) add new respondents including foreign citizens living in Japan and clarify their actual situations, (3) conduct cutting-edge social surveys, and (4) deepen and promote open science. While maintaining the merits and strengths of the SSM surveys and the comparability with them, we will build more valuable data through cutting-edge social surveys. By presenting research results based on this, we will show policy implications and establish standard methods for the next generation of social survey research.

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<http://park.its.u-tokyo.ac.jp/SSM2025/>