Goal9 Realization of a mentally healthy and dynamic society by increasing peace of mind and vitality by 2050.

Here begins our new MIRAI
MOONSHOT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Child Care Commons 2.0: Building Children's Social Capital and Creating Social Value for Co-Nurturing

Project manager

(selected in 2021)

HOSODA Chihiro

Graduate School of Information Science of Tohoku University. Assoc. Prof.

Leader's institution
Tohoku University

R&D institutions
Kanazawa University
Kobe University
NTT Communication Science Laboratories
Sophia University
The University of Tokyo
Tohoku University
Tokyo City University
Tokyo Gakugei University
Tokyo University of the Arts

Summary of the project

As urbanization and the rise of nuclear families increase the burden of child-rearing on parents, Japan is also facing a rapidly declining birthrate. In response to these social challenges, the concept of socializing child-rearing —distributing the responsibility of raising children across society—has become increasingly important. The "Child Care Commons (CCC)" project focuses on building social capital that includes children and aims to develop new systems that enable trusted third parties — those without blood ties to the child —to participate meaningfully in child-rearing. Starting in fiscal 2025, the project expands upon the research and development framework of the previous year as CCC2.0, and by integrating insights from sociology, psychology, neuroscience, education, information science, medicine, and robotics, it designs and implements both environments and technologies that foster diverse social relationships for children. Through this work, the project seeks to create a sustainable child-rearing environment where all children can build rich and diverse social capital. Ultimately, it contributes to improving children's and society's well-being in an age of declining birthrates.

Milestone by the end of the project (2027)

- We will develop guidelines that propose optimal ways for parents, children, and third parties to engage with one another.
- We will investigate the benefits of CCC2.0 from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- We will propose a technological platform and educational programs to support social capital.
- We will propose a new value creation framework that realizes socialized child-rearing through small-scale social experiments conducted in municipalities and companies.

Project structure

We will pursue four R&D themes: (1) propose guidelines and models for optimal connections among parents, children, and third parties (Tasks 11-14b); (2) elucidate the benefits of CCC2.0 from an interdisciplinary perspective (Tasks 21, 22); (3) propose a technological platform and educational programs to support social capital (Tasks 31-33); and (4) propose a new value creation framework that realizes socialized child-rearing (Tasks 41, 42).

Theme 1:Guidelines and model development

What forms of engagement are optimal?	When and what kind of supports are needed?
What forms of engagement are needed in extraordinary environments?	Can robots support social connection?

Theme 2:Benefits

- How can children's social connections be measured?
- How can children's social connections be evaluated objectively?
- Do social connections and their effects vary across different regions?

Theme 3:Technological platform

- How can we safely visualize and valorize social connections?
- What kinds of devices can measure social connections?
- Is it possible to educate children about social connections?

Theme 4:Small-scale social experiments

How do the relationships among parents, children, and third parties change over the long term?	What are the effects of implementing CCC in municipalities and companies, and what challenges might arise?