

Time: Friday 15th December, 2023 12:50-13:40
Place: Room T229 (Troyer Memorial Arts & Science Hall)
Title: What is LGBTQ? Elimination of social discrimination
towards sexual minorities with scientific information
Speaker: Makito KOBAYASHI (Tokunin Professor of Biology,
Department of Natural Sciences, International Christian
University, Tokyo)
Presentation Language: The presentation will be given in Japanese

The human body has a sex-typical body structure, depending on the gonads, the reproductive organs, and secondary sexual characteristics. In addition to body sex differences, there are also differences in the brain between male and female, namely brain sex. It is considered that there are three types of neural circuits which regulate sex-typical human activities. These produce “gender identity”, an individual's self-conception as a man or woman, “sexual orientation”, sexual attraction to a man or woman, and “sexual cycle”, the cyclic release of pituitary hormones. The brain sex is determined during the fetal period and once determined, it does not change over the lifetime.

Combinations of body sex and the three types of the brain neural circuits result in diversity of sexual patterns of persons: male and female which are the majority, and LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) which are called sexual minorities. Sexual minorities are not categorized into people with mental disease nowadays and are considered to have their own characteristics. It is important to understand this subject from the standpoint of biological and medical sciences to reduce social discrimination towards sexual minorities.

*Contact: Makito Kobayashi, makito@icu.ac.jp

日 時: 12月15日(金) 12:50-13:40
場 所: Room T229 (Troyer Memorial Arts & Science Hall)
題 目: LGBTQって何? - 脳の性について正しく知って差別をなくす -
演 者: 小林 牧人 特任教授 (ICU)
発表言語: 日本語

ヒトの身体に性的な違い(生殖腺, 生殖器官, 二次性徴)があるように、ヒトの脳にも性的な違いがあります。前者は身体の性、後者は脳の性と呼ばれています。脳には3種類の異なる性的役割を果たす神経回路があると考えられています。それらは「性自認」(自分を女性と思うか、男性と思うか)、「性的指向」(男性に惹かれるか、女性に惹かれるか)、および「性周期」(脳下垂体からのホルモンの分泌を周期的に起こすか否か)ということを決める神経回路です。これらの神経回路は胎児の時に、男性ホルモンの有無により、どちらか一方の性の型に決まり(脳の性分化)、その後、変わることはありません。

脳の3種類の神経回路と身体の性の組み合わせによって、個人としてはマジョリティーの男性、女性に加えてLGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning)といった多様な性のパターンが生まれます。LGBTQというパターンは、ほとんどの場合、病気ではなく個性です。差別されるものではありません。このように社会が考えていく課題を、科学の観点からの理解を深めて考えていくことが重要です。