

Aiming for the Coexistence of Isla

The Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions (CISMOR), established in 2003, conducts comprehensive and interdisciplinary research and educational activities related to the monotheistic world. It fosters specialists who can help to achieve coexistence among different civilizations and at the same time makes the results of its research available to the world at large, with the goal of becoming a mediator between the Islamic, Judaic, and Christian worlds.

Although the three monotheistic religions that originated in the Middle East—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are as closely related as brothers, Western countries have a long history of repeated conflicts and antagonism with the Islamic world. In order to achieve peace, security, and the coexistence of civilizations in today's world, we must undertake comprehensive and interdisciplinary educational and research activities from a civilizational perspective.

Since it was first established by Joe H. Neesima in 1875, Doshisha University has received high praise for its devotion to research on Christianity and American Culture. In order to promote a comprehensive approach to monotheistic civilizations, CISMOR has expanded the scope of its research on religions to include Islam and has expanded the scope of its regional research to include the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the European Union. In this way, CISMOR pursues its research and educational activities while emphasizing regional research, international relations, safety and security, and the history of science.

CISMOR is unlike any other research institute in the world because it centralizes in-depth interdisciplinary research on all three monotheistic religions and also because of its unique location in Japan, a country that is free of historical or cultural constraints on such studies, thus allowing the institute to take an entirely objective point of view.

Research on monotheistic religions is still a comparatively new field in Japan, and there is still a lot to be learned. By increasing our understanding of monotheistic religions, we will at the same time contribute to a deeper understanding of Japanese culture, which is based on polytheism, the antithesis of monotheism.

"Interdisciplinary Study on Monotheistic Religions: Focusing on the Coexistence of Civilizations and Security" has been selected as one of the research themes in the "21st Century COE (Centers of Excellence) Program".

In the "21st Century COE Program," world-class education and research centers in various academic fields are created at Japanese universities, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology provides intensive support to these centers in order to foster creative individuals and to promote universities that are able to compete on the international stage.

The Center's research plan for "Interdisciplinary Study on Monotheistic Religions" was selected for the "21st Century COE Program" in 2003, and the program is to receive grants totaling about 500,000 US dollars per year over the following five years.

