

ISSA Activity Brief

Issue 14 (May 2026)



The International Social Studies Association (ISSA) invites scholars, teachers, graduate students, and educational practitioners to submit proposals for the 2026 ISSA Annual Meeting, themed **Citizenship Education in Asia**.

This year's meeting seeks to explore how citizenship education is conceptualized, practiced, and challenged across diverse Asian contexts. We welcome proposals that engage with issues such as democracy, diversity, difficult histories, peace and human rights education, digital citizenship, migration, nationalism, global citizenship, civic participation, and social transformation in formal and informal educational settings.

- Date and Time: Friday, October 23, 2026, 10:00-17:00 (Japan Standard Time)
- Venue: Kobe Campus, Hyogo University of Teacher Education
- Language: English
- Fee: 80 dollars (USD) (ISSA association members)
100 dollars (USD) (non-ISSA association members)

We warmly encourage submissions from scholars and practitioners across Asia and beyond, and especially welcome interdisciplinary, comparative, and collaborative work. Proposals should include: Title and Abstract (maximum 500 words). All proposals will undergo blind review. Please do not include names or institutional affiliations in the proposal document.

Proposals are due 11:59 p.m. (Japan Standard Time), Tuesday, June 30, 2026. No submissions will be accepted after the deadline. Proposals must be submitted via the following online submission form:

<https://x.gd/BfXPf>

For more information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/2026-issa-annual-meeting/%ED%99%88>.

Greetings from the President



I am Kazuhiro Mizoguchi, Representative Director of the Japanese Educational Research Association for the Social Studies (JERASS), and I will serve as the President of ISSA for its 5th term (2026–2027). I am honored to continue in this role following my service during the 4th term. I look forward to your continued support.

Now, for the 5th term, we will focus on the following three points as the basic policy for ISSA's operations.

First, regarding ISSA's

financial independence. With the cooperation of member societies in South Korea, Indonesia, and Japan, ISSA promotes academic exchange and the dissemination of research findings in East Asia through annual conferences and the journal JSSEA. However, the publication costs for JSSEA are currently covered not only by membership fees from member societies, but also by financial support from JERASS. To improve this situation, we will raise ISSA membership fees starting in the 2026 fiscal year and work toward achieving financial independence.

Next, we will strive to ensure the stable publication of JSSEA. While the number of submissions has been steadily increasing in recent years, we will now also encourage submissions from researchers in social studies education **outside** East Asia to further enhance the journal's content.

Finally, regarding the ISSA Annual Conference, we have decided to hold our first in-person

conference in Japan in 2026. We plan to use the revenue from conference registration fees to cover costs associated with achieving ISSA's financial self-sufficiency. Furthermore, to invigorate mutual exchange among ISSA member societies, we intend to explore ways for them to jointly plan and manage the annual conference.

In addition, to promote broader personal exchanges among researchers, we will work to establish partnerships with social studies education-related societies outside Asia and recruit new member societies.

President of ISSA
Kazuhiro Mizoguchi

Board Members (2026-2027)

Dr. Nasution
(Universitas Negeri Surabaya)
Recommended by the
Indonesian Social Studies
Association (APRIPSI)

Dr. Yoshihiko Fukuda
(Hyogo University of Teacher Education)

Recommended by the Social Studies Department Research Association (ESSDRA)

Dr. Kazuyoshi Nakadaira
(Toyo University)

Recommended by the Japanese Association for Social Studies (JASS)

Dr. Kazuhiro Mizoguchi
(Kagoshima University)

Recommended by the Japanese Educational Research Association for Social Studies (JERASS)

Dr. Jisu Park
(Busan National University of Education)

Recommended by the Korean Social Studies Association (KSSA)

Dr. Hiroaki Sakaue
(Chiba University)

Editor-in-Chief of JSSEA
Appointed by the ISSA President

Dr. Jongsung Kim
(Hiroshima University)

General Secretary of ISSA
Appointed by the ISSA President

Updates from ISSA Member Associations

1. Indonesian Social Studies Association (APRIPSI)

Report

In 2025, APRIPSI, the Indonesian Social Studies Association, contributed to strengthening academic discourse through the International Conference on Education, History, and Social Studies (ICEHASS), held at Universitas Negeri Padang. This activity became an important forum for scholars, educators, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the transformation of education, history, and social studies in the digital era.

The conference adopted the theme “Historical Turbulence in

the Digital Era,” reflecting the challenges society faces in understanding history, identity, citizenship, and education amid rapid technological change. Through this theme, APRIPSI encouraged critical reflection on how digitalization influences historical knowledge, learning methods, research practices, and social studies education.

The activity also aimed to strengthen academic collaboration at national and international levels. Various keynote and plenary speakers from Indonesia, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, and Malaysia contributed to broadening perspectives on education, history, technology, multiculturalism, and social transformation.

The conference sessions were designed in two main formats: keynote and plenary sessions, followed by parallel sessions. These sessions provided opportunities for participants to present research, exchange ideas, and discuss

sub-themes such as local history, curriculum, learning models, multicultural education, citizenship, eco-pedagogy, and value education.

Through this activity, APRIPSI emphasized the importance of adapting social studies education to the development of digital technology while maintaining ethical awareness and information validity. This is especially relevant because digital media has changed how historical data is collected, analyzed, presented, and taught in schools and universities.

Overall, the 2025 APRIPSI activity through ICEHASS served as a strategic academic platform to strengthen the role of social studies in addressing digital-era challenges. The conference not only promoted scholarly discussion but also encouraged collaboration, innovation, and improvements in educational quality in history and social studies.

2. Social Studies Department Research Association (ESSDRA)

Report

1) 2025 ESSDRA Annual Conference

The 37th Annual Conference of ESSDRA was held on February 21, 2026, with the symposium theme “How Should Social Studies Subjects Address the Flexibilization of Education?”

Contemporary society is in the midst of a whirlwind of change, including globalization, the rapid evolution of information technology, and increasingly complex social issues. Against this backdrop, comprehensive reforms aimed at simultaneously enhancing the quality, equity, and sustainability of education are being sought. This includes revising educational goals and content to foster competencies and abilities, as well as improving instruction and assessment by utilizing digital learning platforms. As measures to realize these principles and directions, the

promotion of curriculum management that takes a holistic view of school education and the “flexibilization” of education tailored to the actual circumstances of students and local communities are being considered. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that practitioners still face structural dilemmas and difficulties, and they are unable to fundamentally shift away from traditional, knowledge-biased, and systematic curricula. Particularly in social studies subjects, given their role in fostering the qualities and abilities directly related to “Comprehensive Learning (Inquiry) Time” and the “realization of a better society,” the positioning of “concepts” and the substantive implementation of “inquiry” must be reexamined. Therefore, this symposium will examine the purpose and goals of educational flexibility. In addition to reports on practical examples of organizing and implementing flexible curricula, we will incorporate analyses and

proposals from researchers. Furthermore, regarding the reforms proceeding under the banner of “educational flexibility,” we aim to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between practicing teachers and researchers to discuss how social studies subjects can address educational challenges and demonstrate and put into practice their unique value.

Upcoming Event

2) 2026 ESSDRA Annual Conference

On February 22, 2026, building on the symposium, deeper discussions were held in Research Project I and Research Project II from the perspectives of elementary and secondary education. This year, Free Research Presentations I and II were also held, attracting many participants. The event is scheduled to take place again at Hyogo University of Teacher Education on February 6 and 7, 2027, so we hope you will join us.

3. Japanese Association for Social Studies (JASS)

Report

1) 2025 JASS Annual Conference

The 75th Annual Conference of JASS was successfully held on November 15–16, 2025, at Ibaraki University under the theme “Reconsidering the Essence of Inquiry in Social Studies Classrooms.” The event featured a symposium, five thematic research sessions, and a diverse range of individual presentations, fostering active discussion among participants.

Upcoming Event

2) 2026 JASS Annual Conference

Looking ahead, the 76th Annual Conference will take place on November 14–15, 2026, at Yokohama National University. The theme, “The Approach of Social Studies Education in a Diversifying Society,” invites further reflection on contemporary challenges in the

field.

For more information, please visit the official website: <http://socialstudies.jp>

4. Japanese Educational Research Association for Social Studies (JERASS)

Report

1) 2025 JERASS Annual Conference

The 74th Annual Conference was held at Kumamoto Gakuen University on October 12–13, 2025. On October 12, free research presentations and a symposium were held, whereas on October 13, issue-based research, free research presentations, and projects were organized by the Research Committee and International Committee.

The symposium “Approaches to Social Studies Education that Cultivates Civic Education” featured four speakers engaged in research addressing the diversification and pluralization of children's realities to cultivate

better citizens. It fostered lively discussion on social studies oriented toward diversity and pluralism. Furthermore, in the issue-based research, building on the symposium, participants deepened discussions on classroom practices that cultivate civic education within separate breakout sessions for elementary, junior high, and high schools.

A networking meeting for young researchers was also held, offering participants an opportunity to deepen their connections. This Annual Conference was a fruitful event, with approximately 390 participants.

Report

2) 2025 JERASS Research Committee Project: “Opening the Black Box of Lesson Development IV: Visualizing the Process of Developing Good Lessons”

This project was organized by the Research Committee of the 74th Annual Conference. In this project, presenters who provided

topics reported on the “process” of developing lessons. The difficulties and stumbling blocks in lesson development, as well as methods for overcoming challenges, etc., that were disclosed by the presenters were shared with the participants, and active discussions were held on “Developing Good Lessons” for the future.

Report

3) 2025 JERASS Research Committee Project: “Opening the Black Box of Lesson Development V: Visualizing the Process of Developing Good Lessons”

The fifth and final workshop for this project was held at Seikei University on March 22, 2026. This was the final workshop of the project, which began in the 2024 academic year as a two-year initiative. During the workshop, presenters who had proposed topics reported on the 'process' of lesson development. They shared with participants the difficulties and obstacles they

had encountered in developing lessons, as well as the methods they had used to overcome them. This led to a lively discussion about the future development of 'good lessons'. Over the two-year period, the five workshops enabled many social studies teachers to reflect on the challenges and joys of creating 'good lessons' and gave them the courage to tackle this task head-on.

Report

4) 2025 JERASS International Committee Roundtable: “Opening Doors to International Research II: Why Do You Conduct Foreign Studies?”

This roundtable was organized by the International Committee at the 74th Annual Conference. This second event featured not only three researchers—a veteran, a mid-career scholar, and a junior researcher—who are advancing research on foreign social studies education, but also active

audience participation. Discussions were lively and interactive, covering the motivation for engaging in foreign research, its scholarly significance, research methods, the research environment, and future prospects for foreign research.

Upcoming Event

5) 2026 JERASS Annual Conference

The next 75th Annual Conference will be held on October 24 and 25, 2026, at the Tennoji Campus of Osaka Kyoiku University. We look forward to your participation.

5. Korean Social Studies Association (KSSA)

Report

1) 2025 KSSA Annual Conference

The Korean Social Studies Association held its 2025 Annual Conference on August 30, 2025, at the Center for Teacher Education Innovation, Seoul



National University. The conference was organized under the theme “Social Studies Education Beyond Borders: Challenges and Opportunities,” and served as an important academic forum for discussing the changing roles and future directions of social studies education in a rapidly transforming global society. Scholars, researchers, and educators gathered to exchange ideas on a wide range of topics, including digital social studies education, multicultural discourse, citizenship and

democracy education, sustainability and ecological education, gender education, geography education, and history education.

The conference featured keynote lectures by international scholars, including Professor Maia Sheppard from the University of Iowa, who discussed decolonizing history education and the significance of teaching difficult histories, and Professor Jongsung Kim from Hiroshima University, who presented on history education through authentic

communication. In addition, keynote presentations by Korean scholars explored the significance and future tasks of Korean social studies education. Through twelve parallel sessions, participants engaged in active discussions on both theoretical and practical issues in social studies education. The conference provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on how social studies education can respond to contemporary challenges and contribute to democratic citizenship in the era beyond traditional boundaries.

2) 2025 KSSA Fall Academic Conference

The Korean Social Studies Association also held its 199th Regular Academic Conference (Fall Academic Conference) on December 6, 2025, at Seoul National University of Education. The conference was organized under the theme “New Horizons of Citizenship Education in the Era of Digital Transformation.” The event focused on exploring



the changing role of citizenship education and social studies education in response to the rapid development of digital technology and artificial intelligence. Researchers and educators presented studies on various topics, including technology ethics and AI ethics education, global citizenship education, teachers' perceptions of political neutrality, and the development of localized teaching materials for social studies classrooms.

Participants engaged in thoughtful discussions on how

citizenship education should move beyond the simple transmission of information and instead foster critical thinking, democratic participation, and ethical responsibility in the digital age. The conference also highlighted the importance of connecting academic research with classroom practice by encouraging collaboration between university researchers and school teachers. Through presentations, discussions, and a roundtable session, participants shared practical insights and reflected on the

future direction of social studies education in a rapidly changing society. The conference ultimately served as a valuable platform for examining how social studies education can contribute to democratic citizenship and civic engagement in the digital era.

Upcoming Event

3) 2026 KSSA Annual Conference

The 2026 Spring Academic Conference of the Korean Social Studies Association will be held on May 30, 2026, at the Education Research Building of Korea National University of Education. The conference will be organized under the theme “Changing Society and the Response of Social Studies Education.” This upcoming conference aims to examine how social studies education should respond to ongoing social change and educational transformation in contemporary society. Researchers, educators, and practitioners are expected to

participate in discussions on a variety of topics related to citizenship education, democracy education, history education, economic and cultural education, and civic participation.

The conference will particularly focus on how social studies education can cultivate students’ civic competencies, democratic values, and critical participation in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world. Through research presentations, panel discussions, and academic exchanges, participants will explore both theoretical and practical approaches to strengthening social studies education. The conference is expected to provide an important opportunity for collaboration between scholars and classroom teachers while encouraging deeper reflection on the future direction and social responsibility of social studies education.

Journal of Social Studies Education in Asia (JSSEA)

The Journal of Social Studies Education in Asia (JSSEA) is pleased to announce its upcoming issues.

JSSEA Volume 15 is currently in editing. This issue features a Special Issue on “Promoting Well-being in Social Studies Education”, edited by Dr. Hyunjin Kim and Dr. Naoyuki Ito. This volume, which includes four peer-reviewed papers, is shaping into a highly topical and insightful collection that addresses key issues in well-being within social studies research and teaching.

Additionally, Volume 15 is compiling conference papers from the 2025 ISSA Annual Meeting, where scholars examined “Emotion and Citizenship Education in Asia: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives.” Two papers discussing the theories, challenges, and possibilities regarding emotion and

citizenship education in Japan and South Korea will be published in this volume.

We will call for papers about “Citizenship Education in Asia” for the JSSEA volume 16. This special issue is proposed in conjunction with the 2026 ISSA Annual Meeting, to be held on-site in Kobe. Further details on the special issue will be announced on our website sometime in June.

We look forward to your contributions and continued engagement with JSSEA. For further details, please visit the JSSEA website:
<http://jerass.com/jssea/>
