Introductory Address for the Covid-19 Special Issue:

Remodeling Research under Coronavirus from "ordinary" to "new ordinary"

The world today holds all kinds of risks. While human society suffers from natural threats such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, it is likewise unable to break free from the chaos of human rights violations, widening inequality between rich and poor, and ideological and religious conflict. The root of these problems lies in the fact that the science and technology that support modern civilization do not always enable the peace of the human race or further human desires. At present, it is critical to note that the human race is pondering the future of civilization on a global scale both individually and collectively.

Given the above circumstances, the Institute of Civilization Research organizes several projects to advance the study of culture and civilization. As one such project, we have developed research on the philosophical and historical processes of human activity from the perspective of transdisciplinary humanities. Since 2015, we have held an international symposium on the subject of "*Dialogue between Civilizations*," during which a variety of themes have been discussed from diverse perspectives, e.g., human thought, art, history, epistemology of science and technology, etc. Regrettably, after the Fourth Symposium in March 2019, the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the following year forced the Fifth Symposium to be called off, and this situation persists.

The coronavirus (Covid-19), which has spread since the beginning of 2020, is the most influential pandemic of the 21st century, affecting the global economy and all human life. Under such conditions, it seemed most appropriate to publish this special issue devoted to topics on the influence of Covid-19. Titled "*Remodeling Research under Coronavirus from 'ordinary' to 'new ordinary'*," this special issue adds the new perspective of inter- and transdisciplinary humanities to the traditional economic and medical standpoints. Its purpose is to promote discussion of a new human society aimed at the sustainable development of civilization. We will discuss new research perspectives, formalizing them as an element of "dialogue between civilization and culture" in the era of the coronavirus pandemic.

Throughout 2020, many researchers and even university students were limited in their ability to advance their research. They could not participate in academic meetings without the use of Zoom or similar online services and, more importantly, they could not visit locations to undertake field work or on-the-spot investigation and documentation. Nonetheless, surely all researchers are hopeful of continuing their research and are eager to identify ways to develop their research in new directions and from new perspectives: what we describe as a remodeling from "ordinary" to "new ordinary."

This special issue consists of ten papers on various fields: human thought and philosophy, history, tourism, the internet, the environment, quality of life (QOL), etc. All of these papers raise ideas, methods, and perspectives that suggest novel directions and offer a wider vision for future research.

The issue opens with two keynote papers, each of which considers an important question: information overload and a new approach to tourism, respectively.

The first keynote paper, presented by T. Hiraki, is titled "*The COVID-19 Infodemic and Intellectual Empowerment*" and discusses the peril of *infodemic* associated with Covid-19. Here the term *infodemic* refers to an overabundance of unreliable information, and particularly the possibility of such information inhibiting the public's ability to take appropriate action during a pandemic. According to the author, WHO members warned about the risk of *infodemic* before they warned about the pandemic itself. Particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, the *infodemic* is aggravated not only by false or unreliable information but also by misunderstanding and over-optimism. The proliferation of SNS communication threatens to fragment the perception of risk even further. The author argues that information should be synthesized into a coherent whole and presented in a fact-based manner to be shared with lay citizens who do not have scientific knowledge. This is reflected in the author's perspective that lay people, as citizens, should be sufficiently intellectually empowered to gain insight into the situation, overcoming any deficits in their scientific thinking. Consequently, empowerment for lay citizens is required.

The second keynote paper, titled "*The Analysis of Co-creative Actions for Tourism during the Covid-19 Pandemic*," is presented by S. Lee and T. Nakashima, who address the impact of Covid-19 on tourism. Although they point out that research on tourism in the context of Covid-19 is in progress, the authors suggest a new approach to tourism based on service theory while discussing human QOL and well-being. Here, the key factor is the Service-Dominant Logic (SDL) advocated by Vargo and Lusch. SDL signifies the exchange of services and is based on the concept that value is created only when one entity provides services and another entity receives them. Applying SDL to the field of tourism, the main entity providing services is the "tourism industry" and "residents" while the entity receiving services is the "customer/consumer" as a "tourist." SDL thus requires co-creation, giving meaning to the existence of both entities and ultimately bringing the possibility of tourism's sustainable continuation. Following this discussion and after scrutinizing earlier research on the revitalization of daily life and socioeconomic activities during an emergency, the authors examine Twitter data by extracting two pairs of keywords: the first of these "tourist" and "exchange" and the other is "tourist" and "participation." From this data, the authors conclude that tourists retain their own motivations for travel even during the current pandemic. Thus, the concept of SDL can provide a new model for tourism in which co-creative action involving both tourists and residents can generate positive feelings and enhance well-being for both.

The remaining papers are grouped into three sections according to their subject matter and its relationship to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic: "Concept and Theory," "Online and Digitization," and "Environment and Human Activity."

The section "Concept and Theory," containing three papers, is intended to discuss human behavior and feeling from a philosophical and theoretical perspective. The first paper, "*Local Identity as the Concept of Agency*," is presented by T. Hattori and addresses the concepts of "self" and "place." It is motivated by the tendency of people, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic, to seek a "place" where they are able to find discover "self." These concepts should be important and necessary considerations in community revitalization. Through the discussion, the author recognizes the importance of the concept of "local identity" and its components of "self-esteem" and "self-efficacy." Finally, having introduced the concept of "agency," the author concludes that it allows "self" to be combined with "place," whose meaning can then be fixed more definitely. The second paper is T. Nakamura's "*Reconsidering of the meaning of 'living place' of people*." During the Covid-19 pandemic, the digitization of communication through the internet has progressed rapidly, a process that

promotes an increasingly two-dimensional imaging of the real world. Linear perspective was a product of the Renaissance, but people today are over-dependent on artificial technology that represents the real three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional screen. The author, reflecting on this situation from the standpoint of Western art history, poses questions involving a reconsideration of the meaning of human "living place" and human existence itself. These two papers offer reflections on human existence under the severe conditions of Covid-19. By contrast, the third paper encourages us to consider human behavior under these conditions. Presented by S. Watanabe and titled "*The Problems Presented by the COVID-19 Crisis - Centered Around Infodemic*," the paper's theme is "*infodemic*" and it is thus related to the first keynote paper. The author argues that, in attempting to control "*infodemic*," it is difficult to depend on individuals' information literacy. This is because humans live in an information society in which rapid access to high volumes of information is of great value. According to the author, this necessitates further consideration of the problem of human existence in an information society.

In the second section, "Online and Digitization," three papers present and discuss certain concrete measures related to digitization and online release of material. The first paper, "*The Dialogue of Human Knowledge Through the Medium of the Internet – Digital Archives Under the COVID-19 Pandemic –*," is presented by M. Adachi, who points out that research conditions have become quite difficult during the Covid-19 pandemic because researchers are limited and even prohibited from visiting other locations (academic meetings, libraries, museums, etc., whether internally or internationally). Research in the humanities (history, above all) always requires documentation, therefore the digitization of documents and their release online are helpful and even indispensable. The author, reporting on the circumstances of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the search engine "Persée," discusses the necessity of document digitization as well as its merits and potential future problems. The second paper also concerns the digitization of documents and digital archives. Entitled "*Changes Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis – Limitations of and potential for the digitalization of reference material and disclosure on the Internet – ,*" it is presented by T. Nakashima and Y. Hirano. As in the preceding paper, the authors develop the problem of digitization of documents and digital archives. While the concept of digital archives has been considered in Japan, little progress has been made, mostly because of concerns over literary property. The authors present the efforts of some university libraries to establish digital archives and discuss future possibilities in this area. These two papers address an important problem in continuing research in every field during the pandemic, but the realization of digital archives should present a new opportunity even after the pandemic; a "new ordinary" for the future. The third paper is "*Current Status and Typification of Online Tourism in the New Normal Era*," presented by M. Futaesaku, and it concerns the severe problems face by tourism during the Covid-19 pandemic. The tourism industry in Japan is promoting the rapid introduction of new methods like online sightseeing, online delivery of various events, etc. In this paper, the author identifies four categories of such activities: Live Tours, Live Show Delivery, Online Contact, and Archive Broadcast. The novel kinds of tourism that result can provide many people with the virtual experience of sightseeing and the chance to acquire information online. It could thus be considered a "new ordinary" in tourism.

In the last section on "Environment and Human Activity," human activities as well as human feelings about the coronavirus are discussed. Here, the following two papers are presented with different themes. The first paper is entitled "*Analysis of Positive Feelings Toward Tourism During the COVID-19 Pandemic*" and is presented by S. Lee. The author examines positive human feelings related to tourism and the impact of the

pandemic on those feelings, and goes on to suggest that such feelings correspond to human happiness and well-being. A key concept is the temporal perspective which a human possesses both on the past and the future. By scrutinizing Twitter data concerning tourism and especially by examining changes in the emotions of tourists and residents during the Covid-19 pandemic, the author verifies that positive emotions in connection with "expectations" for the future lead to human well-being. Furthermore, one's temporal perspective on the future is the main factor in enhancing one's sense of well-being. The second paper is presented by Y. Hirano, T, Nakashima and M. Takahashi and is titled "*Covid-19 Pandemic and eQOL (environment-related QOL)*." This paper not only discusses human QOL (related to happiness and well-being) but also defines the concept of eQOL (environment-related QOL) as human satisfaction in the co-existence of both humanity and nature in a sustainable manner. Among the causes of Covid-19 pandemic, the authors identify two key factors: excess human contact with nature and the globalization of the human world. Excessive human contact with nature inevitably demolishes the balance and harmony between humanity and nature, with the result that eQOL is lost. The Covid-19 pandemic suggests what human might do for the future.

Thus, the Institute of Civilization Research is publishing this Covid-19 Special Issue to consider and reflect upon the reality of the pandemic. What is most important, however, is not simply overcoming the present threat, but fixing our gaze on the future. Science and technology have certainly managed to develop a vaccine and can be expected to develop specific remedies in the near future. For their part, the humanities (human sciences) can reconsider and discuss human activities, and can even estimate and imagine the value of human existence in the future. Throughout, the goal should be to achieve a change from "ordinary" to "new ordinary."

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