

**Invitation to 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Europe/Japan Student Conference on:  
*Diversity and Inclusiveness: divergent treatment of neglected minorities as  
seen by students in Asia and Europe***

Organized by the Josai Institute for Central European Studies

with support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

in cooperation with Charles University (Czech Republic)\*, University of Leipzig

(Germany)\*, Eotvos Lorand University (Hungary), Mykolas Romeris University

(Lithuania) University of Warsaw (Poland), Comenius University (Slovakia), and

University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

Venue: the Kioicho (Tokyo) Campus of Josai University and Josai International University

Date: **13 February, 2020**

The purpose of this conference is to give students from Asia and Europe an opportunity to examine differences in popular attitudes and official policies toward previously neglected minorities in their countries, such as for example LGBTQ community members and persons with various kinds of disabilities. In many parts of the world, prejudice and discrimination toward these and other marginal groups has given way to societal acceptance, legal protection, and even compensation for past discriminatory treatment. In other regions, however, negative public attitudes and policies of willful neglect persist. Moreover, even in the same country treatment toward different groups can vary greatly. For example, in Japan the 2020 Paralympic Games have received positive media attention while legal rights of same sex couples are not recognized. Students chosen to take part in this conference will be asked to examine how members of formerly neglected minorities in their countries are treated, what if any changes have taken place in popular and official attitudes, and what the reasons for the changes – or absence of any – may be.

Participants from outside Japan will make individual 15-minute presentations in English on a topic related to the above theme. Students wishing to focus on other formerly neglected minorities are asked to contact the organizers at [ahorvat@jiu.ac.jp](mailto:ahorvat@jiu.ac.jp) to discuss their ideas. Participants may be requested to turn their presentations into manuscripts suitable for publication. For participants from outside Japan, economy class air travel and accommodation for four nights as well as meals related to the conference will be provided.

\*Participation to be confirmed.