

Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

Issue 45
March 2024

Here is the 45th newsletter
from the Harassment
Counseling Office.

A word from our counselors

Do you, the other person, that person, “consent” to the relationship?

When people interact with each other, various power and authority relationships arise. Harassment is when a person with more power or authority in a relationship engages in behavior that goes beyond what is appropriate and causes distress to a person with comparatively less power.

What is appropriate is determined by a variety of factors, including mutual standing, circumstances, and timing. The most important thing is whether or not there is mutual consent.

For example, with regard to sexual consent, Saito (2022) states that the following four things are important.

- ① Voluntary = It is safe to say No.
- ② Mutual = No coercion or inducement by social status or power relations.
- ③ Specific = Consent to one act must be separate from consent to another act.
- ④ Competent = Capable of making decisions and communicating intentions.

In other words, the prerequisite for a consensual relationship is that a relationship has been established in which intentions, including refusals, are valued in previous interactions, and that the relationship proceeds by confirming the intentions of the participants each time.

This is true for all interactions and relationships, not just sexual ones.

Of course, a relationship between faculty and student as well as supervisor and subordinate will include guidance and instructions for research and work. There will also be customs, culture, and rules for each laboratory and each workplace. These are necessary and important for the community. However, even then;

- the necessity should be explained and agreement obtained
- Customs, culture, and rules should be posted so that members can review and share them.
- When members raise objections, it is important to stop to review the situation, etc.

Often in a strong position	Often in a weak position
University academic staff	Students
University academic staff	Administration staff
Supervisor	Subordinate
Male	Female
Older person	Younger person
Affluent person	Poor person
Full-time	Part-time

Those who are in a strong position should actively explain and obtain consent. That is the smart adult of the future.

Continued overleaf

Harassment Counseling Offices

2024.3.1~

Campus	Room	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
Toyonaka	Harassment Counseling Office 1 Room #704, 7F, Interdisciplinary Research Building 06-6850-5029	10:00- 13:00	10:00- 13:00	12:00- 15:00	11:00- 14:00	
	Harassment Counseling Office 2 2F, Data Station, Cybermedia Center 06-6850-6006		13:00- 17:00	14:00- 18:00		
	Harassment Counseling Office 3 2F, East Staircase, Health and Counseling Center 06-6850-6505 ※Male counselor		※13:30 -17:30		※13:30 -17:30	※13:30- 17:30
Suita	Harassment Counseling Office 1 Room #1311, 3F, Division of Nursing Building 1 06-6879-6981					11:00- 14:00 (☆Closed)
	Harassment Counseling Office 2 Room #1312, 3F, Division of Nursing Building 1 06-6879-6982 ※Male counselor			15:30- 18:30		15:00- 18:00 (★Closed)
		※13:00- 16:00 (◇Open)				
Minoh	General Harassment Counseling Office 1F, Research and Education Hub 072-730-5112 ※Male counselor			Open only 2nd week ※13:00 -16:00		

(Suita・Harassment Counseling Office 1) ☆Closed : Jan.12, Feb.9, Mar. 8

★Closed : Jan.5, Feb. 2, Mar.1

(Suita・Harassment Counseling Office 2) ◇Open : Jan.15, Feb.19, Mar.11

● Consultations with a professional counselor may be in person or by telephone

([appointment required](#))

● [Confidentiality is guaranteed](#). Anonymous consultations by telephone are welcome.

● See the Osaka University website for details on the locations, opening hours, and availability of consultations in English.

https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/campus/life/prevention_sh/prevention_sh



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