

Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

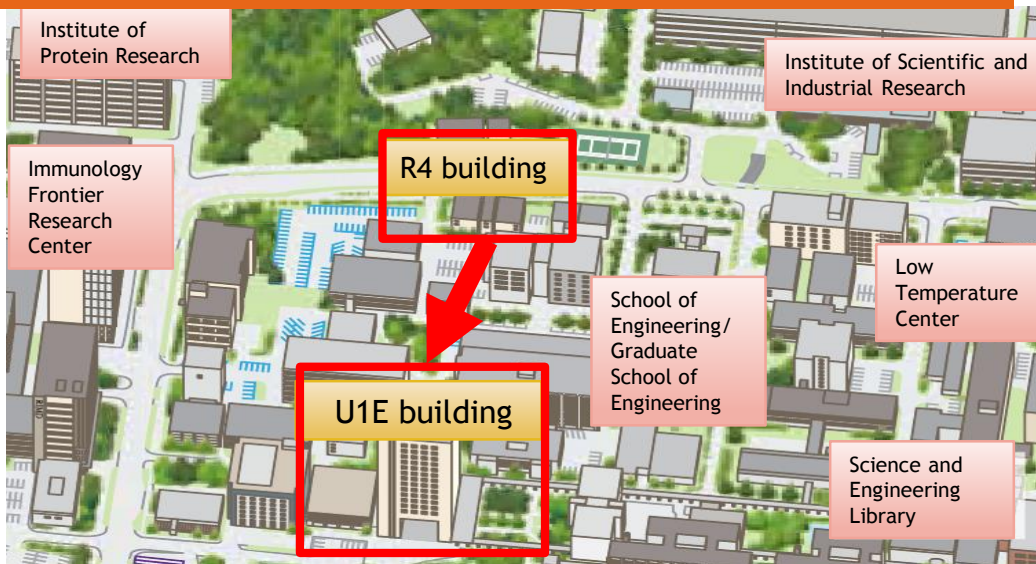
It's now March! Things may be busy this month, but we hope you are fine. We present to you Issue 9 of the Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter.

Announcement

The Harassment Counseling Office on Suita Campus will be changing locations.

From April of 2017, the office will be moved from the 2nd floor of Engineering R4 building to the 4th floor of Engineering U1E building. As usual our counselors will be available for you, so please feel free to come visit if you want to talk about anything. (Please remember to make an appointment first. For more information about our opening hours, please check the Osaka University website under "Preventing all types of harassment.")

Suita Campus (4th floor of Engineering U1E building.) 06-6879-7169 (direct line)



Lending of educational materials

Here at the Harassment Counseling Office, we have educational resources and materials about harassment, including books and DVDs that can be borrowed.

The materials can be borrowed for personal use, or for use in your research laboratories, offices, etc. Some of the DVDs have runtimes of a few minutes, while others include useful discussions that can be used after watching. Content covers academic harassment, power harassment, and sexual harassment.

For detailed information about the materials, please check the Osaka University website under "Preventing all types of harassment." If you would like to borrow some materials, please contact the Administrative Office for Harassment Countermeasures, Department of General Affairs.

Column Message from a counselor

I feel there are many cases of power harassment, even between students and co-workers where it might seem like there isn't any kind of unequal power relations. It's easy to imagine that power harassment only occurs between professors and students, or workers and bosses, where power differences are obvious. You may think that conflicts between peers or co-workers could be easily resolved just by directly talking, without ever becoming a serious problem. The reality is that many times power relations exist, even if they are hidden at first glance.

Besides obvious reasons such as seniority, many factors can cause the development of power differences, including age, expressiveness, or respect from others because of academic or work achievement. So when someone with this relative power criticizes or speaks down to a peer, that person may be hurt much more than one might expect. While the offender is to blame, the surrounding people are also a problem. Due to the power relations and respect for the offender, the surrounding people may ignore the offense or be willing to overlook the problem. As these incidents repeat, the harassed party will feel even more powerless and alone, and unable to focus on their work or studies they may sometimes even quit.

Another case is closed-space study sessions or workshops, where in the name of "helping train each other," one-sided harsh criticisms are deemed acceptable. Some people may see it as tradition, even encouraging verbal abuse and offensive words. The harassed are mentally strained, having no one to help them and even blaming themselves. Verbal abuse is a violation of human rights. There is never any justification for hurting another person.

While it is important to be sensitive about what we say, we must also be careful not to encourage or overlook the abuse of others, or allow them to feel alone or ostracized.

Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office

Toyonaka campus 06-6850-5029 (sexual harassment)
06-6850-6006 (academic and power harassment)
Suita campus 06-6879-7169 (sexual, academic and power harassment)
Minoh campus 072-730-5112 (sexual, Academic and power harassment)
Website http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/for-student/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh



Edited and published by the Administrative Office for Harassment Countermeasures,
Department of General Affairs, Osaka University
1-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871
Email: soumu-harassment@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

