

Seminar on Environmental Ethics and Environmental Philosophy

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To solve environmental problems, it is first necessary to ask basic questions such as “What is the human–nature relationship?” and “What is nature for humans?” Drawing insight from ancient wisdom and ideas, this laboratory attempts to answer these questions through theoretical research with a focus on modern day issues.

Key concept: 共生(*kyosei*)

If the key concept of Japan’s rapid economic development from 1955 to 1973 was *shinpo* (進歩: progress), then that of modern society would be *kyosei* (共生: living together, co-existence). *Kyosei* is a unique term that started to be used to conceptualize Japan’s environmental problems in the mid-20th century, and is still frequently used today in policies relating to the environment. However, because it has been used in a variety of ways over the years, the type of relationship to which it refers has become somewhat unclear. Therefore, we define *kyosei* as the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature, with a primary focus on issues between individuals and wildlife in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries.

➤ Damage to plants and crops by wildlife is a major problem in agriculture and forestry today. Thinking of this problem as an “alienation” issue makes it possible to look at the significance of countermeasures in terms of *kyosei*.

