

Michio Naoi Assistant professor
Field of speciality: Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Interviewer: Harasawa, Kikui

“Urban Economics” Focused on Empirical Analysis”

Q. What is your research area of expertise, Professor Naoi?

I specialize in urban economics, and I don't want it to end there (bitter smile). Personally, I'm working on housing and real estate issues. So, to say a little more, for example, there are quite a lot of such forms recently, such as the behavior of relocating, how the demand for housing among the elderly is. It's a field like applied microeconomics, so some people do theoretical analysis, while others do empirical analysis using data, something like econometrics. It seems that you are mainly doing empirical analysis. It's not funny haha.

“Before I knew it, urban economics? ! “

Q. Please tell us how you came to study urban economics.

At first, when I was an undergraduate, I studied labor economics. I also attended a seminar on labor economics. Labor economics is a relatively wide field, and it is easy to imagine how wages are determined, labor demand, and how companies hire people. Problems such as what to do with children and how much time mothers spend on child-rearing are also often dealt with in labor economics. Thinking about it that way, I studied a wide range of labor economics, such as household decision-making and consumer decision-making. I came out. After all, buying a house is a big event. Well, before I knew it, urban economics, which dealt with such things, became my specialty. Before I knew it, it might be better to talk about how I was really interested in the city from the beginning

“Is it better to own a house in Japan? ! “

Q. Which is better, buying a detached house or renting an apartment?

The basic stance of economics is that if there are no policy distortions, it doesn't matter which way. But in reality, there are various policies, such as preferential treatment for owner-occupied houses. How much does it encourage home ownership? Japan has a relatively high home ownership rate, internationally. So, there are differences depending on the country. For example, how policies, tax systems, etc. affect the rate of home ownership is one of the research themes of people working in urban economics and housing. So, which one is better? At least considering the current tax system in Japan, I wonder if it's made so that owning a house is more profitable.

“Economic Analysis of Familiar Interests! !“

Q. Please tell us about your educational philosophy, Mr. Naoi.

Educational philosophy? Educational philosophies (laughs) I didn't think about it at all, but... well, I think I'd like to leave it up to autonomy as much as possible. In terms of themes, I think it

was urban economics and applied microscopy. Depending on the year, there are years when it is written as Applied Microscopy, and there are years when it is written as Applied Measurement, and it is different. As I said earlier, this applies to labor economics as well as urban economics, but the scope of the subject is very wide, so I tried to get my seminar students to be able to write various papers with as wide a range of interests as possible. I don't think so. It may not be an educational philosophy (laughs), but since it covers a wide range of fields, I always want to help people to analyze relatively familiar interests properly from an economic perspective.

“Have you thought about becoming a university teacher? !”

Q. Please tell us about your school days, Mr. Naoi.

School days? What kind of student I was? . . . What is it like? (Laughs) When I was in college, my club was a golf club, so I played a lot of golf. I still do it, but not as much as I used to. (When asked about his future dreams) I didn't want to become a university professor when I was a student, nor did I want to stay and become a researcher when I entered graduate school. I didn't really hate studying, so I thought I'd go to a university to get a master's degree, so I went on to graduate school, and then I thought it would be interesting to try it, so I thought I'd stay like that, so I went. I feel like I really wanted to become a university teacher, but at least I didn't when I was a student. (When asked about job hunting) Now there are internships, but there weren't any back then, so I went to a lot of information sessions and did job hunting a little bit during my third year, but I was relatively close to graduate school. When I tried job hunting, I thought the opposite.

“Tie together knowledge learned separately!”

Q What is the secret to conveying the fun of studying to students?

I don't know if I'm being careful in my classes, but I don't know if they're being careful (laughs). In fact, this kind of economic thinking is hidden in the background, and if you use it, it is actually related to this. Rather than individual knowledge, I think it would be good if I could make up as much as possible that knowledge that I had learned separately and that is connected like this. Depending on the person, there may be people who think it's fun and people who think it's logical and boring, so I'm not sure if it's successful (laughs).

“A willingness to analyze familiar themes economically! !”

Q What do you expect from second-year students who want to attend the Naoi Seminar?

The themes dealt with are very wide, and there are also relatively familiar themes. Buying a house is still not familiar to everyone, but it will be familiar in 10 years. In addition, there are many familiar topics in this field, so in that sense, I would like someone who is interested in familiar topics and has the desire to apply them to economics and analyze them. When I think of economics, I think about good policies and economic policies. When I was an undergraduate student, I thought that I could do something interesting by applying what I was learning about

economics at Hiyoshi to such a familiar theme, and that's what sparked my interest in this field. It would be nice to have people who have various interests in familiar themes.

"Don't be afraid to fail, just give it a try!"

★Finally, please give a message to the second graders★

Last year's seminar students and this year's seminar students were relatively quiet. Maybe it's not just our seminar, but in general, in that sense, I want you to challenge yourself in a field you don't know well. It's a common message (laughs), but I feel like there are a lot of people who think a lot before they do it. I wonder if I can do it well. Even if you hear about graduation thesis presentations, there are quite a few students who are interested in this subject, but are hesitant because they may not succeed. I personally think that you can't do anything if you try for the time being, so I want you to try it for the time being.

[edit postscript]

In spite of the damp weather in the middle of the rainy season, Dr. Naoi responded with the same freshness as usual. He was very young, and when he looked back on his school days, the expression on his face was that of a student. It is precisely because she is such a teacher that students can feel free to talk to her while showing respect. The seminar is said to be the second semester this year. It will be interesting to see how this new seminar develops in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your cooperation in this project despite your busy schedules.

Kazushi Harasawa