

Nagakura Seminar

Dr. Nagakura Daisuke

Specialty: Applied Econometrics, Time Series Analysis, Financial Econometrics

Interviewer: 追本・長山

『The theme is free, statistically what you want to do!』

Please tell us about what you are currently researching and what your students are researching

My field of study in the broad context is Econometrics. Within Econometrics, I focus on theoretical study of time series analysis. In recent times, I have been focusing on analyzing data on finance through theory and empirical analysis. To be more specific I study theories and demonstrations of evaluation and measurement methods of financial asset risk using high frequency data that is updated every minute or second.

I allow my students to do whatever they want. Basically, if you are analyzing statistics, you are allowed to do anything, and the students are allowed to freely find a topic or theme to research. I teach how they can utilize their topics to analyze statistics and how to use statistics software's to apply their topic.

For example, this year 3rd year students have 4 groups. These 4 groups are studying topics such as the impact on investment structures for companies under the quantitative easing policy, Factor analysis of companies' overseas expansion, determinants of academic ability of elementary and junior high school students, and the impact of the quantitative easing policy on the price index.

As a trend, there is at least one group that researches about social issues. For example, a group of students have researched the effect on satisfaction rate from having children. Another group researched how the tuition rate for universities are decided. Luckily, through their research, they found out that the tuition for Keio is not necessarily expensive. They seemed to be disappointed because their hypothesis was incorrect (Laugh).

『I only help. Independence is key』

Can you tell us about your education philosophy?

I believe that a college professor works to guide students what they want to learn. During my college life and life after college, I realized that learning something is dependent on yourself. Having this mindset will drastically change your life, and you will have a very fulfilling college life.

I like to help students with such mindsets, and I believe students should make use of professors as a source of information by asking many questions. It may be difficult to find a specific interest at first, but college is the most suitable place to do so, and I hope students can find something

they are passionate about. It does not necessarily have to be related to education, but it will be a valuable experience to be immersed in something you are passionate about.

I want students to be independent and be able to act independently. Because of this, I like to help students by giving hints and push rather than pull. I only help when it is only necessary. When I usually say this, people say that I am a cold person. (Laugh)

『A fresh start in my 3rd year, somehow up to that point』

Please tell us about your college life, why you became a teacher, and your hobbies

During college, I did not really study. I only became serious about studying when I was in my 3rd year. Until then, I just went with the flow. In my 3rd year, a certain event occurred, and I decided to try harder with a fresh start. After this occurred, I realized that I loved to study or research, and I decided to move onto that path. I chose econometrics because when I first took statistics, I was fascinated by it. If thought that if I learned statistics, I would be able to apply it to different subjects, and so that might be the reason why I chose this path. I liked analyzing familiar data such as household account books. Analyzing allowed me to see different trends and make plans and it was very fun. Then, I found interest in statistics and econometrics, and I wanted to study more about it, and when I noticed I was working at a university. When you hear this story, it may seem like I only did things I liked, but as a matter of fact I had to do things I didn't like to find out what I liked. I believe that to continue something you like, you have to do things you don't like, and you have to be able to do it.

As I said earlier, I don't have a strong reason why I became a professor, and I became a professor because I continued to do what I liked. The best place to learn and research was at a university.

I don't have many hobbies, but I like to watch soccer. I don't usually play soccer. The players I like are Kagawa, Honda, and Hasebe. I like to check news on soccer. I like to talk about soccer with the students as well. (Laugh)

『Looking for serious people』

Final messages to 2nd year students

If you don't have something you are passionate about, do your best with everything, I promise you will find something. If you are already passionate about something, continue it! Anyways, just try your best with something. (Laugh)

Also, you should fail while you have some time. While you are young, I think it is important to continue challenging yourself, and continue to make mistakes. When I think about it, I should've made more mistakes in the past. When you are at my age, you can't really make mistakes. (Laugh) It is scary to make mistakes as a grown man, and the damage you get from making a mistake is big. If possible, I want to become a grandpa that has a challenging spirit who is not afraid of failure, but this seems quite difficult.