

Toya LAB.

[Humanities and Engineering]



Department of Human and Social Systems
Research Group on Culturally-Informed Engineering
Center for Social Complex Systems

1) Promoting a new fusion of the humanities and science with an added sociocultural dimension

Blending the humanities and the sciences requires a three-stage process: 1) Get a bird's-eye view of the subject as a whole; 2) Devise an effective way to combine approaches ; and 3) Carry out the research.

Convinced of the importance of designing a mediating space as a buffer between the different disciplines, I am working with EMP (Executive Management Program) alumni to develop a new fusion of the humanities and the sciences with a wide-ranging focus on culture and society. EMP is an intensive and comprehensive six-month program for business executives, government officials and professionals such as lawyers mainly in their 40's. The program aims to nurture the real knowledge and deep insight that will be expected of the next generation of leaders.

Utilizing their experience, I am working on cutting across disciplinary boundaries and achieving interdisciplinary collaborations that are truly effective and dynamic.

2) Applying historical research to engineering and society

I continue to conduct intermittent research in my original areas of specialization: cultural and social history of aesthetics, and management history of fashion and cosmetic industries. In addition to developing applications of the insights I have gained through my historical research for engineers and society in general, I focus on building systems that make such applications possible. I am working on finding new practical applications as a member of the Research Group on Culturally-informed engineering that formed in April 2020.

3) Toyoshima Endowed Chair for Lifestyle Research(2018.9-2021.10)

This department develops prototypes based on a vision of what lifestyles will look like in the near future. I am a member of the department, which collaborates with the Design-Led X Platform to develop prototypes based on the seeds of innovation created at IIS by researchers . We add insights from the humanities to the design process.