

Call for Proposals: 2026 Tri-National Symposium on "Diversity in Unity"

By the Korean Psychological Association (KPA)

The psychological associations of China, Japan, and Korea are pleased to announce the 2026 Tri-National Symposium, which will be held in South Korea hosted by the Korean Psychological Association (KPA) under the theme "*Diversity in Unity*."

In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding and embracing diversity is critical for fostering harmonious global relationships. Psychology plays a vital role in uncovering the mechanisms behind differences and similarities, promoting mutual understanding and collaboration across individuals and/or societies. The theme "*Diversity in Unity*" highlights the idea that the coexistence of diversity within a group and the importance of cultivating collective resilience through shared insights.

The Korean Psychological Association (KPA) invites collaborative research proposals focused on Unity in Diversity from diverse perspectives. We will provide financial support for the selected proposals. The aim of this invitation is to bring members from the psychological associations of China, Japan, and Korea together to share knowledge, expertise, and ideas on a particular topic. We believe this opportunity would strengthen the Tri-national alliance and foster global collaboration.

Potential examples of the proposal could be:

- Social & cultural psychology: How do people in each country construe 'diversity' and 'unity'? How do they view the relationship between diversity and unity?
- Personality psychology: What are the personality correlates of the dialectical understanding of the relationship between diversity and unity? Are there any cross-cultural differences?
- Cognitive psychology: How do cognitive processes influence perceptions of unity in diverse individuals/groups/components? How do individuals perceive 'diversity' and in what context they perceive unity?
- Developmental psychology: How does the understanding of the concepts of "unity" and "diversity" develop with age? How does such understanding influence children's social cognitive abilities and social behaviors?
- Clinical psychology: What intervention programs can be effective to promote unity and diversity in harmonious ways? How do experiences of social exclusion influence one's mental health?

- I/O psychology: How is the perception of unity in diversity in the workplace related to team members' job satisfaction and performance? How can a leader boost a sense of unity while acknowledging the importance of diversity?

Requirements

The selected proposals must meet the following requirements:

1. **Cross-National Data Collection Requirement:** Studies must include cross-national comparative data involving *at least two* of the three East Asian countries (Korea, China, Japan).
2. **Symposium Presentation:** Selected research teams are required to present their findings at the 2026 Tri-National Symposium (that will be held in Korea in August 2026). For one main presenter per team, accommodation (during the 2026 Annual Korean Psychological conference; usually 2 nights and 3 days) and honorarium (that can cover airfares, ground transportation, and so on) will be provided by the KPA.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be Ph.D. holders (e.g., full-time faculty members at universities, post-docs, research associates).

Proposals Submission

- Deadline: March 31st, 2025, at 11:59pm
- Approximately 3-5 pages of proposal must be submitted, and the proposal must include the following points.
 - Purpose of the proposed study
 - Background of the study
 - The (academic and social) importance and implication of research
 - Research methods (participants, methods of recruiting participants, tasks and questionnaires, etc.) and analysis plans
 - A budget plan for the study
- Please submit (1) a proposal and (2) an application form to jpa@psych.or.jp with “2026 Tri-national Symposium Research Proposal” as the title of the email.

- One team from each country (Korea, China, and Japan) will be selected, with evaluation conducted by the respective national psychological associations.

Research Funding

- The amount of financial support for each selected proposal is **\$2,000 USD**, distributed as follows:
 - \$1,000 as a research initiation grant (to be provided in 2025)
 - Within 10 months after receiving the initiation grant, a one- or two-page-long brief report of the progress of the study should be submitted.
 - The remaining \$1,000 will be paid upon completion of the study (as long as the brief report is successfully submitted)

*Please note that there is a possibility of fluctuations in the exchange rates between USD and the local currency and that relevant taxes (as needed) and bank charges may be deducted from financial support.

Criteria for evaluating proposals

- The topic is on “Diversity in Unity,” and it is broadly consistent with the goals of the invitation.
- It has not only scientific but societal/practical implications.
- Research plans are achievable.
- Methodologies are rigorous and data analysis plans are solid.
- A well-laid budget plan

We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that advance cross-cultural collaboration in psychology and foster mutual understanding across East Asia. If there are any further questions, please contact the international director of the KPA (Dr. Isu Cho, isucho@skku.edu).