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Preface

Our 21st Century COE program "Toward an Integrated Methodology for the Study of the Mind" was an attempt to incorporate advanced research programs into a higher education system and to cultivate internationally competitive young researchers. In the process of this attempt, it had become increasingly clear to us that graduate students and young researchers are trained most effectively when they have the experience of actually participating in collaborative researches involving multiple disciplines. Furthermore, such interdisciplinary researches often turned out to facilitate the exploration of new promising research fields and the development of ground-breaking technologies. After the five years of our endeavor, the 21st Century COE program ended in 2007, and the commencement of a new COE program named Global COE program was announced in the same year. The Centre for Advanced Research on Logic and Sensibility (CARLS) is our new and ongoing attempt in this direction and is financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology within the framework of the Global COE program.

Life in modern society is fraught with a variety of serious and peculiar mental health problems. These problems often result in devastating consequences such as bullying, self-mutilation, and suicide, especially, in children and young adults. It is believed that many of today's mental health problems arise when the two critical dimensions of the human mind, logic and

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sensibility, lose their harmonious coexistence and come into conflict with each other. Accordingly, it is important to acquire a good understanding of the relationship between logic and sensibility not only as a task of basic science, but also as a means to provide critical information for the development of viable solutions to the mental health problems surrounding today's society.

Now, distinguishing two different processes in human judgment has a long history. Immanuel Kant spoke of the dichotomy between the understanding (Verstand) and sensibility (Sinnlichkeit). More recently, Daniel Kahneman, a cognitive scientist and Nobel laureate in 2002, distinguished the automatic and rapid intuitive mode and the deliberate and slow controlled mode in human judgment. And the neuropsychologist Antonio Damasio has demonstrated the dissociation between emotion (a function of amygdala and parietalis) and reasoning (a function of ventromedial prefrontalis). Research on the relationship between logic and sensibility has been mostly conducted independently in various scientific disciplines. However, the relationship is so complicated that it is hardly hoped to be understood from the narrow viewpoint of an individual discipline. Furthermore, in today's highly specialized and compartmentalized science, few researchers are aware of and able really to comprehend the full significance of researches done in disciplines other than their own. There is thus a desperate need for more qualified researchers who are capable of conducting both intra- and inter-disciplinary research on the complex relationship between logic and sensibility.

The CARLS has two main objectives: 1) To study the relationship between logic (or rationality) and sensibility (or emotion) as a means to resolve conflicts which are often the main cause of today's most pressing mental health problems; and 2) To build a premier education and research center for the study of logic and sensibility, where young researchers are trained to understand and increase their knowledge of diverse disciplines in both the humanities and experimental sciences. More precisely, we shall try to answer the following questions:

- a) How are logic and sensibility processed and integrated in the human neural system? At which point in phylogenetical histories did logical judgment and decision-making appear? Which aspects of the logical judgment process are unique to humans?
- b) What is the genetic basis of logic and sensibility? How does the nature

of logic and sensibility change through development?

- c) What roles does the knowledge of language play in the relationship of logic and sensibility?
- d) What are the cultural restrictions to logic and sensibility? How are these restrictions transformed through the process of globalization?
- e) How is human sensibility involved in logical judgment in terms of logic and informatics?

With a view to answering these questions, the CARLS consists of five main education and research teams, each of which focuses its activity on themes specific to its own field and, at the same time, highly relevant to other disciplines. These themes include: 1) Brain and Evolution, 2) Genetics and Development, 3) Language and Cognition, 4) Philosophy and Cultural Anthropology, and 5) Logic and Informatics.

The CARLS Series of Advanced Study of Logic and Sensibility is an annual publication which presents a comprehensive overview on the researches done by these five teams. The present volume is the first of this series.

20th February, 2008 Executive of CARLS Professor Shigeru Watanabe