

Trust in East Asia

Professor Toshio Yamagishi

Center for Experimental Research in Social Sciences, Graduate School of Letters,
N10 W7 Hokkaido University, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Japan 060-0810. Email:
toshio@let.hokudai.ac.jp

Abstract: This talk draws on a comparative study of trust in three Japanese, Taiwanese and Chinese cities. Laboratories at Sapporo, Zhuhai, and Taipei were connected via Internet, and participants (students at Hokkaido U, San Yat-sen U, and NTU) played trust a game with their compatriots and participants from another society, and we found: 1) Japanese did not change their behaviour regardless of the origin of their partners, whereas Chinese changed their behaviour depending on the origin of their partners. 2) Japanese trust of their compatriots and their reciprocation to trust was much lower than the Chinese. 3) Chinese treated Taiwanese as if they were their compatriots, whereas Taiwanese trusted Chinese less than they did Japanese.

Speaker: Toshio Yamagishi is a Professor at Hokkaido University, Japan, and Director of its Center for Experimental Research in Social Sciences. He was born and bred in Japan. He completed a PhD in sociology in 1981 at University of Washington. He has been with Hokkaido University since 1988. His research specialty is in cross-cultural research and social trust.