Title of Project： Connectivity and Trust Building in Islamic Civilization

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Number of Research Area：20A104　Researcher Number：20195580

【Purpose of the Research Project】

Horizontal relationship building has long been a strength of Islamic civilization. In this research project, we will shed light on these various connectivities and trust relationships in order to make visible and give expression to the hitherto tacit knowledge therein, and to structure them as strategies. Through this work, it is our hope to establish new perspectives that may help resolve the widening divisions we see in the world today.

With a view to Islam over its history of 1400 years and within the global whole, this project will investigate trust building processes at sites of connectivity. Although the issue of vertical power dynamics in Islam has been widely discussed, horizontal relationship building has been less scrutinized: as such, it is a new field of research. Researchers from diverse fields will collaborate in this transformative and large-scale, interdisciplinary area studies project.

【Content of the Research Project】

Islamic civilization has developed in societies with high cross-regional mobility. In this project, we will study the movement of people, goods, and information as a question of connectivity from three angles: the Islamic economy; the evolution of language and knowledge; and immigration and refugees. We will focus on how various fractures present in cross-regional and pluralistic cultural environments are overcome; on the nature of relationships built with the Other; and how trust is forged therein.

Islamic Civilization: 1400 Years of Horizontal Relationships Across Culture and Religion

Furthermore, we will address in-depth issues arising in trust building from the following perspectives: inter-state relations in Islam; strategy of thought; and peacebuilding. We will also investigate from various angles the methods

historically utilized in building trust and solid relationships in situations of conflict with the Other. The field of digital humanities has seen significant growth in recent years, and will support our goal to make visible hitherto tacit understandings. Through this work, we also look forward to discovering new problematics in the study of trust building and connectivity.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

The researchers participating in this project aim to create an "Islamic Trust Studies Platform" through joint research and heightened connectivity between related research institutes and organizations, both nationally and internationally. This network, in addition to the research and online data to be published thereby, will serve as a crucial foundation for the future development of Islamic Studies around the world. Also, in order to promote the diffusion of this research into the civil society, we will create the "Civil Dialogue Caravan," a forum for public dialogue and exchange.

It is estimated that in 50 years, Islam is likely to surpass Christianity globally as the largest religion by population. While the majority of this population will be found in Asia and Africa, Muslims will continue to forge connections and trust worldwide. As society grows increasingly divided around Islam today, it is our hope that in addressing global issues through the study of connectivities, we may chart an accurate course for the future of Japan's contribution as part of the international community.

【Key Words】

Connectivity. For the purposes of this research, our understanding of connectivity will encompass the Arabic translation of the term, which includes the definition "the proactive forging of relationships."

【Term of Project】FY2020-2024

【Budget Allocation】575,700 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】
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