New editorial board 2021–2023

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In my capacity as the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, I would like to announce that the new editorial board of the journal *Primates* comes into effect in January 2021. Professor Masayuki Nakamichi of Osaka University will become the new Editor-in-Chief and hold the position for the next 3 years. It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome Prof. Nakamichi. He has already served on the Advisory Board for 3 years from 1996 to 1998 and then as Associate Editor for more than two decades since 1999. His research has been focused on the behavior of wild Japanese monkeys, but he has also studied other species, such as ring-tailed lemurs in Madagascar and lowland gorillas in zoo settings. Two Vice Editors-in-Chief, James Anderson and Satoshi Hirata, will continue their role in the coming term (Fig. 1).

Primates is the oldest English-language primatology journal in the world, published by the Japan Monkey Centre (JMC) through Springer Nature in collaboration with the Primate Society of Japan (PSJ). I served as Editor-in-Chief for 6 years and 3 months, taking over in October 2014 from my predecessor, Prof. Juichi Yamagiwa (Matsuzawa 2015). The number of issues per volume has increased from four to six since 2018. The number of submitted manuscripts and the impact factor are steadily increasing. I appreciate all the efforts of my colleagues who act as associate editors and advisory board members, without whom the journal could not achieve its aims. I also appreciate the enormous effort by the reviewers. We always put the acknowledgements to them in the last issue of each volume. The total numbers of reviewers were: 148 in 2018 (from July 2017 to June 2018), 166 in 2019 (July 2018 to June 2019), and 212 in 2020 (from July 2019 to June 2020).

Please allow me to take this opportunity to look back over our history. Primatology in Japan began on December 3rd,

1948 (Matsuzawa and Yamagiwa, 2018). It was on that day that the late Kinji Imanishi (1902–1992) and his two undergraduate students from Kyoto University, Jun'ichiro Itani (1927–2002) and Shunzo Kawamura (1924–2003), set out for Koshima Island to observe wild Japanese monkeys. By studying the social behavior of the monkeys, they aimed to better understand the evolutionary origins of human society.

Fig. 1 Snow monkeys in the snow in Shiga Heights (photo taken by Toshio Hagiwara)

Tetsuro Matsuzawa: Editor-in-Chief (2015–2020).

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Imanishi and his team, divided into several parties, went to 19 sites of various landscapes to study wild monkeys, including Koshima, Takasakiyama, Yakushima, Minoo Valley, Arashiyama, Shiga Heights, Shimokita, and others, in the following 7 years. In total, they spent more than 1500 days in the field observing the monkeys in their natural habitats (Matsuzawa and McGrew 2008). To study the details of the monkeys' behavior at close range, they started provisioning: that is, habituating the monkeys to their presence by giving them food. They observed the monkeys for months, and then years, developing a unique style of field research consisting of individual recognition, habituation (provisioning), and long-term observation. This method of study remains a standard technique of fieldwork on nonhuman primates.

Frans de Waal gave a plenary talk in The First Imanishi-Itani Memorial Lecture on Primatology, held in Kyoto on February 18th, 2002, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Imanishi's birth. In his talk, de Waal described the influence of Imanishi's approach on Western science as a "silent invasion" (de Waal, 2003). If students of long-lived animals in the field routinely identify individuals and follow them over their lifespan, then they are employing techniques introduced by Imanishi. Few people stop to think about who invented this method, but it has prevailed in the research community as the standard for doing fieldwork.

Japanese primatologists worked together to help create JMC, founded on October 17th, 1956. Soon thereafter, in 1957, JMC started publishing the journal *Primates*. In 1958, JMC sent the first expedition to Africa to study wild gorillas and chimpanzees. The Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University (PRI), the national center for Primatology in general, was founded in 1967 thanks to the efforts of the

pioneers. PRI was built next-door to JMC. JMC became a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation in April 2014 and is a registered museum responsible for producing the journal *Primates*. The current Director General of JMC is Professor Gen'ichi Idani of Kyoto University, who has been studying chimpanzees and bonobos in the wild. JMC promotes research, education, conservation, welfare, and communication with the public regarding nonhuman primates.

Primatology is the scientific study of all primates, including humans. To better understand ourselves as humans, it is essential to study our closest living relatives; an interest in apes, monkeys, and prosimians is shared by scientists and laypersons alike. Through the scientific study of nonhuman primates, we can develop a better appreciation of our own place within nature.

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