

# KANO'S LEGACY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## *Judo, Youth and Education in a Changing World*

### International Symposium

University of Tsukuba, Japan — October 1–3, 2026

With the support of the International Judo Federation

---

## Presentation

The international symposium "Kano's Legacy and the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" will be held at the University of Tsukuba (Japan) on October 1–3, 2026. It aims to examine how Kano Jigoro's educational project can inform contemporary debates on youth, education, citizenship, and global change. The symposium will explore judo as both a historical response to the Meiji era transformations and a potential resource for addressing today's social, educational, and ethical challenges.

We invite contributions from a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences (history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, sports studies, education sciences, political science, psychology, etc.) that critically engage with judo as an educational practice, a cultural and social institution, and a vector of values.

The symposium addresses how the Kano method contributes to the physical, intellectual, and moral development of young people facing the complex challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It echoes the Japanese Ministry of Education's Fourth Basic Plan, which pursues two key objectives: "fostering creators of a sustainable society" and "enhancing well-being rooted in Japanese society". This concern, shared by both high-income countries and emerging economies, is closely connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations.

Kano Jigoro established Kodokan judo to provide Japanese youth with an education capable of preparing them for the profound transformations of the Meiji Restoration, notably the transition from a predominantly agrarian and insular society to an industrialised nation-state open to Western influences. What contemporary role can judo play in this broader context of social, educational, and cultural change?

The University of Tsukuba traces its origins to the Higher Normal School, where Jigoro Kano served as director and significantly contributed to the development of modern education and physical education in Japan. Despite judo's recognition as an Olympic sport, it has consistently retained its educational core, which has been central to its global diffusion. Its enduring commitment to values has turned this Japanese martial art into a potential shared language that aspires to transcend political, cultural, religious, and ethnic divisions.

What role can judo play in the physical, moral, and civic education of young people today? How can the practice of judo help younger generations to cope with the multifaceted pressures that affect families, schools, and local communities? In what ways can it support the development of their capacities for self-control, cooperation, and conflict management — and at what social, institutional, and ethical cost? These are some of the key questions that this symposium seeks to explore by bringing together the insights and empirical work of scholars from various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

---

## Thematic Axes

Contributions may be theoretical, historical, empirical (qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods), or comparative. Case studies, policy analyses and practice-based research are welcome, provided they are grounded in a clear analytical framework. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Kano Jigoro's life, thought and educational legacy
  - Judo, peacebuilding and international exchanges
  - Judo, values and the threats facing today's youth
  - Judo pedagogy: reforms, inclusivity and "judo for all"
  - Judo, motivation, pleasure of learning and personality development
  - Judo, moral and civic education (in schools and clubs)
  - Gender, elite performance and judo values (women and men champions)
  - Judo, soft power and international influence
  - Judo, e-sport and contemporary youth cultures
  - Comparative perspectives on judo and other educational practices
- 

## Submission Guidelines

We welcome individual paper proposals and panel proposals.

### *Individual paper proposals*

Each proposal should include:

- Title of the paper
- Author's name, institutional affiliation, position, and email address
- Abstract of 250–300 words clearly presenting: the research question or main objective; the theoretical and/or conceptual framework; the methodology and empirical material (if applicable); the main results and/or expected contribution
- 4–5 keywords

Papers will be allocated 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for discussion.

---

## Poster Session

The symposium also includes a poster session dedicated to ongoing or recently completed research, particularly by doctoral candidates and early-career researchers. Posters should present original scientific work and be suitable for visual communication.

Posters may address any of the themes listed above and should:

- Present a clearly defined research question or hypothesis
- Situate the work within existing literature and debates
- Describe the methodology and data (corpus, fieldwork, sources, etc.)

- Highlight the main results and/or expected contributions
- Emphasise the educational, social or ethical implications of the research

Posters are expected to follow a structured scientific format: title, author(s), affiliation(s), contact email; background and state of the art; research question(s) / objectives; theoretical / conceptual framework; methodology and data; results / findings; discussion and conclusion; selected references.

Technical specifications: A0 format (84.1 × 118.9 cm), portrait orientation. Language: English (bilingual posters may be accepted if English is fully readable).

Text must be concise and legible from a distance (body text ≥ 24 pt).

---

## **Submission Procedure**

Proposals for papers and posters must be submitted by 30 July 2026.

Please send your proposal as a single file (.docx or .pdf), named as follows:

- For papers: Paper\_SURNAME\_FirstName\_ShortTitle
- For posters: Poster\_SURNAME\_FirstName\_ShortTitle

and email it to: [Michel.Brousse@me.com](mailto:Michel.Brousse@me.com) with the subject line: "Symposium proposal – Paper / Poster – SURNAME".

---

## **Review Process**

All proposals will be peer-reviewed and selected by the Scientific Committee of the symposium, both for acceptance for presentation and for subsequent publication. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Relevance to the theme of the symposium
- Scientific quality and originality
- Clarity and coherence of the research design
- Suitability for oral or poster presentation

Authors will be notified of the outcome by 15 August 2026.

Accepted participants will be asked to confirm their attendance by 31 August 2026.

---

## **Working Language**

The working language of the symposium is English. In exceptional cases, contributions in other languages may be considered, provided that the visual support (slides, posters, handouts) is in English.

---

## **Practical Information and Publication**

The symposium will take place on October 1–3, 2026 at the University of Tsukuba, Japan.

All proposals submitted will be peer-reviewed and selected by the Scientific Committee of the symposium, both for acceptance for presentation and for subsequent publication. A selection of papers will be considered for publication in the *Arts and Sciences of Judo*, the peer-reviewed journal of the International Judo Federation, subject to the standard editorial and review procedures of the journal.

Further information regarding the organisation of the conference — including venue, programme schedule, and accommodation options — will be communicated as soon as it becomes available.

For any enquiry, please contact: Michel Brousse — [Michel.Brousse@me.com](mailto:Michel.Brousse@me.com)

---

## **Scientific Committee**

- Michel Brousse (France)
- Yves Cadot (France)
- Patrick Clastres (Switzerland)
- Sanda Čorak (Croatia)
- Shinji Hosokawa (Japan)
- Takashi Matsui (Japan)
- David Matsumoto (USA)
- Noriko Mizoguchi (Japan)
- Randeep Rakwal (Japan)