



Foreword to the Symposium in Honor of Kazuo Nishimura

Jess Benhabib & Tapan Mitra

To cite this article: Jess Benhabib & Tapan Mitra (2007) Foreword to the Symposium in Honor of Kazuo Nishimura, , 13:2-3, 97-98, DOI: [10.1080/10236190601069309](https://doi.org/10.1080/10236190601069309)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10236190601069309>



Published online: 07 Mar 2007.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 142



View related articles [↗](#)

Foreword to the Symposium in Honor of Kazuo Nishimura

JESS BENHABIB^{†*} and TAPAN MITRA^{‡¶}

[†]Department of Economics, New York University, New York, NY 10012, USA

[‡]Department of Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

(Received 29 September 2006; in final form 5 October 2006)

On the Occasion of the 60th Birthday of Kazuo Nishimura

This collection of papers is warmly dedicated to Kazuo Nishimura, in appreciation of his contributions to the economics profession, and for the inspiration he has provided to his students, co-authors and to young researchers in economic theory.

Kazuo obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Tokyo University in 1970 and 1972, respectively, and in 1973, he joined the graduate program in economics at the University of Rochester, where he worked under the supervision of his legendary teacher, Lionel McKenzie. Kazuo's research has focused on the three fields in which Lionel McKenzie made path-breaking contributions: international trade theory, general equilibrium theory and the theory of economic growth. His various contributions to the theory of optimal economic growth, inter-temporal equilibrium theory, the theory of dynamic optimization, and chaotic dynamics in economics, are characterized by insightful originality as well as technical clarity and rigor. They have improved our understanding of the inter-relationships between business cycles and economic growth, and have inspired further research by younger scholars in these fields.

After spending three years at the University of Rochester, Kazuo joined the faculty of the Department of Economics at Dalhousie University (Canada) in 1976. He obtained his PhD in 1977 and returned to Japan with an appointment at the Tokyo Metropolitan University. The next ten years turned out to be very crucial in shaping his style and area of research, and saw the publication of some of his most well known papers. During this period, he also taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and at the University of Southern California. In 1987, he joined Kyoto University, where he has remained for the rest of his career. Currently, he is the Director of the Institute of Economic Research at Kyoto University. To say however that Kazuo remained in Kyoto is a misstatement. As his colleagues know well, Kazuo is always on the road, visiting his co-authors to provide insight, encouragement, and the benefit of his inexhaustible energy for research. Many of Kazuo's co-authors will recall working with him late into the night to solve a difficult research problem, and finally taking a break for

*Corresponding author. Email: jess.benhabib@nyu.edu

¶Email: tm19@cornell.edutm19@cornell.edu

sleep, only to meet him the next morning to be casually handed some scribbled notes with the solution to the problem.

Kazuo has had a distinguished career in the service of the economics profession. He was elected a fellow of the *Econometric Society* in 1992. Kazuo served as the vice president of the *Japanese Economic Association* in 1999–2000, and as its president in 2000–2001. He was a co-editor of the *Japanese Economic Review* during 1995–1997, and was its editor in chief for the period 1998–2000§. He took the initiative to introduce a new journal to the economics profession, the *International Journal of Economic Theory*, and he has been its managing editor since its inception in 2004. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals in economics and applied mathematics; in addition, he has edited a number of special issues for leading journals, and organized various conferences around the world.

Recently Kazuo has become an active and leading participant in the public debate in Japan about the science curriculum taught in high schools and universities. Kazuo has been advocating strongly the need for appropriate training in science and mathematics for high school students, as well as for humanities students at universities. He has made his voice clearly heard in the popular press in Japan, and has also published academic articles on science and mathematics education. Currently, he is the president of the International Society for Education.

We, Kazuo's friends, colleagues, co-authors and students, have been privileged to benefit from his inspiration, his hard work, his loyalty, warmth, dedication and generosity to his friends, and his contributions to economics. We are all looking forward to our continuing collaboration with him in the years to come.

Writing for the friends and students of Kazuo,
Jess Benhabib and Tapan Mitra

§The *Economic Studies Quarterly* became the official English-language publication of the *Japan Association of Economics and Econometrics* in 1959, and was published up to 1995. Since 1995, the journal has been published as the *Japanese Economic Review*. In 1998, the Association was renamed as the *Japanese Economic Association*.