

Preface

Izumi OTANI*

**Editor-in-Chief of the Ars Vivendi Journal*

**College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan*

The current issue of the Ars Vivendi journal includes a paper of special significance. This article, by Mark R. Bookman and Carolyn S. Stevens, suggests that using autoethnography to increase the diversity of experiences and paying attention to stigma alleviation can enhance our understanding of the lives of people with disabilities and the social structures, legal systems, and built environments that surround them in different contexts ("Living with Disability in COVID-19 Popularized in Japan and Australia"). Bookman and Stevens state that the many constraints on advancing disability research (diversity among stakeholders, efforts to mitigate stigma, and listeners' cultural expectations) they experienced during the pandemic also apply to other countries and historical moments. They also see the potential for this logic to be meaningful for other minority researchers.

Dr. Mark R. Bookman, the first author of this paper, passed away on December 16, 2022. He was a friend of the Institute of Ars Vivendi, and we mourn his passing and send our deepest condolences to his friends and family.