

EAPL-S SMALL TRAVEL GRANT 2026 WINNER:

MASAHIRO SODAMURA

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Masahiro Sadamura is a Doctoral Researcher at the Graduate School of Human Sciences, The University of Osaka, working at the intersection of psychology and law. He also holds a J.D. from the University of Tokyo.

My research examines how judges and citizens make sentencing decisions — in particular, how welfare and support-related information is evaluated in cases involving elderly and juvenile defendants. I use mixed methods, including vignette experiments, structural equation modeling, and natural language processing / machine learning with explainable AI (SHAP) applied to court judgments. At EAPL 2026 I am presenting two posters on these themes.