The Management Design Center, established in October 2012, is one of the newest research centers at the SDM Research Institute. It was founded as an education and research center for management of various systems, including company management, technology development, society, the environment, and policies based on the principles of “Project Management,” one of the core subjects of Keio SDM. The Center aims to nurture human resources that society needs by improving Keio SDM’s curriculum and by organizing study groups, seminars, and symposiums. Some of the events organized by the Center are open to the general public. Please feel free to take part in the Center’s activities. We would be happy to receive your comments and requests concerning the Center’s roles and activities.

The System Design Methodology Laboratory studies methodologies for a wide range of system design and management in different fields. The laboratory members include individuals of various disciplines: those who research system-thinking methodologies and methods based on system engineering by taking a panoramic view of things and capturing subjects as systems; those who research innovative-design methodologies and methods based on design thinking; and those who study methodologies and methods for management, such as program portfolios.

With regard to system thinking, the Laboratory covers both multidisciplinary and field-specific research areas by engaging experts from various fields. It conducts research on methodologies concerning system development, such as satellites, IT systems, and smart grids, as well as methodologies concerning system assurance. It also deals with cutting-edge research on systems engineering, such as “systems of systems” and “enterprise systems engineering.” This includes an architecture framework and meta process based on meta thinking. For innovative designs, the Laboratory studies methodologies and methods based on the idea of “System x Design,” which is applicable to a wide range of fields, such as service development, regional vitalization, and town creation. Regarding management, the Laboratory looks into management issues beyond Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), including a methodology to efficiently manage programs based on organizations’ portfolios, as well as strategies for standardizing intellectual property and technology management.

What makes this research on methodology and methods interesting is the scale of the research effects. The research findings are normally applied to a wider range of fields than was initially expected. Those who are interested are welcome to take a peek in at the Laboratory’s activity. We organize “Extended Human Laboratory” seminars every Saturday afternoon jointly with the Human Laboratory.