

2020 CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series

Convergence and Divergence in Spouses' Time Expenditures on Paid Labor, Housework and Childcare during COVID-19: Evidence from Singapore

Telecommuting and school closures arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted gender divisions of childcare and housework. This paper explores changes in spouses' time expenditures on paid labor, housework and childcare using data on 399 married couples collected before, during and after the COVID-19 lockdown in Singapore. In general, both spouses worked less and spent more time on housework and childcare during the circuit breaker. For both paid labor and childcare, the gender gap in time expenditures narrowed during the circuit breaker and continued to narrow even more immediately after the circuit breaker ended. By contrast, the gender gap in time expenditure on housework widened substantially during the circuit breaker and remained large after the circuit breaker. Results on these gendered patterns during and after the circuit breaker may have important implications for countries which may continue to experience lockdown situations.

Tan Poh Lin examines Singapore's family and population through interdisciplinary perspectives, including biodemography and health, sociology and economics. Her research focuses on causes behind the crisis of Singapore's extremely low fertility rate, the effects of national health crises on family dynamics and fertility, and the tension between fertility and human capital accumulation. Prior to joining the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, she was a Population Policy Officer at the National Population Secretariat (now National Population and Talent Division). She obtained her PhD from Duke University and BA from Princeton University.

Chaired by: A/Prof Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan

Department of Sociology, Co-Director of CFPR, NUS

Date: 11 September 2020 | Time: 12.00noon - 1.00pm | via Zoom

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y2f2rsy5>

