

International Sociological Association (ISA) Conference for RC06 (Family) & RC41 (Population) Changing Demography ↔ Changing Families



With the dynamic participation of 290 internationally renowned scholars, authors, researchers and students, from universities, research institutes/centres, government organisations and publishers, the first joint ISA conference titled “**Changing Demography ↔ Changing Families**”, ended on a high note on May 17-19. The two and a half days conference held at Mandarin Orchard Singapore, was co-organised with Global Asia Institute and Department of Sociology, NUS. It was also generously supported by OUE Limited and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

The conference was also honored to have as its keynote speakers **Prof Judith Seltzer** (Department of Sociology University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); Director, California Center for Population Research) and **Prof Wolfgang Lutz** (Social and Economic Statistics, Vienna University of Economics and Business; Founding Director, Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital; Director, Vienna Institute of Demography).

structures since independence, as well as its prospective implications on public policies. Moreover, several esteemed book contributors shared key findings from their research:

- Chapter 3, Dr Suriani Suratman & A/P Maznah Mohamad: *the interaction between changing labour force participation and the slow-to-change gender roles among Singaporean Malay families.*
- Chapter 4, Dr Lavanya Balachandran: *the heterogeneity of the Indian community in Singapore based on class, educational attainment and linguistic diversity.*
- Chapter 5, A/P Teo You Yenn: *the difference in capacity to perform idealized family roles depending on the magnitude of economic and social inequality faced by an individual.*
- Chapter 7, A/P Thang Leng Leng: *the need to reconsider policies in elder care given the changing family circumstances.*



The book “**Family and Population Change in Singapore: A Unique Case in Global Family Changes**”, edited by Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and Dr Hu Shu, was also successfully launched in conjunction with the conference. Along with Prof. Charles Hirschman and commentators, Prof Yi Chin-Chun and Prof Judith Seltzer, both editors inaugurated the two-part launch by sharing on the changes and the challenges in Singapore’s family and population



More research highlights from the respective keynote speakers, international advisors and presenters from the conference can be found in the following pages.





Family and Demographic Change: Problems and Progress

Prof Judith A. Seltzer (Keynote Speaker), UCLA

Prof Seltzer drew on family and demographic research in both Singapore and the United States to show that family obligations extend beyond household boundaries and across individuals' lives. She also illustrated how the interplay between family responsibilities and demography shed light on socioeconomic inequality between Blacks and Whites in the United States.



Population and Climate Change

Prof Wolfgang Lutz (Keynote Speaker), Vienna University of Economics and Business

Prof Lutz argued that the interactions between population changes and climate change need to be studied in both directions: humans have been causing climate change and changing population size is one of the factors in this together with consumption per person and with technology. Since population is heterogeneous, he addressed factors that contribute both to differential vulnerability and to different capacities to mitigate climate change.



Global Family Change: The Reshaping of Society's Most Fundamental Institution with Development

Prof Frank Furstenberg, University of Pennsylvania

Prof Furstenberg addressed the implications of family change for child and adult well-being across all development stages. His study suggests continued centrality of the family despite profound social and economic changes that have affected sexual practices, marriage, fertility, gender norms, and economic activities within and outside the family.



The Contraceptive and Fertility Revolution in India: A Regional Analysis, 1992-2005

Prof Charles Hirschman, University of Washington

Prof Hirschman discussed reproductive and contraceptive dynamics with a detailed study of regional patterns for the earlier rounds of India's NFHS surveys from 1992 to 2005. He also addressed the question of between regional lags in contraceptive use and fertility behavior, which is simply due to a general model of diffusion or to differences in structural characteristics or other unmeasured attributes.



Families in Southeast & South Asia

Prof Gavin Jones, Australian National University

In the plenary session along with Prof Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and Prof Sonalde Desai, Prof Gavin Jones discussed family and demographic trends – focusing on fertility, marriage, family structure, and intergenerational relations. The plenary session also focused on the relevance of global family change frameworks.



Maternal Employment, Grandparental Proximity, and Children's Well-being

Prof James Raymo, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Using data from the Japan Child Panel Survey, Prof Raymo found that mothers' full-time employment is positively associated with children's emotional well-being and that grandparental proximity appears to be associated with better child outcomes when mothers are either unemployed or are in non-standard employment.

Demography and the Family: The Case of Jews in Israel

Ofra Anson, Ben-Gurion Univ. of the Negev

In her plenary session speech, Prof Ofra Anson discussed a short history of the Jewish immigration to Israel, immigration and demographic differences, changes in marriage patterns, an account of Israel as a pro-natal society, family formation in Israel – the politics of religion, prevalence of single parent family and same-sex families.

Gender and Re-partnering after Divorce in Four Central European and Baltic Countries

Ausra Maslauskaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Results showed an overall gender disadvantage in re-partnering across all countries, in more traditional contexts, parenthood undermines chances for women but not for men to re-partner. The negative effect of older age for re-partnering after divorce is almost universal for men, but context sensitive for women. Education does not affect women's chances to re-partner, but does play a significant role in the attractiveness of men in traditional settings

Conflict and Contraception in Colombia

Signe Svallfors, Stockholm University

Results showed that women in departments where conflict had occurred recently had significantly higher odds of using modern contraception on average than women in non-conflict areas. Women are likely more careful to avoid unwanted pregnancy because of increased impoverishment, insecurity, and emotional and physical stress of armed conflict.

Dynamics of Asset Poverty in South Korea, 2005 to 2014

Soyoon Weon, McGill University

Study revealed 3 main findings: (a) lagged poverty state was significantly associated with a 14-20% increase in the probability to incur asset poverty for all analysis samples; (b) largest effect of lagged poverty state was seen when defining assets as a resource for development; and (c) probability of incurring asset poverty decreased with home ownership, higher disposable income, and greater diversification of the household portfolio.

Father's Migration and Cognitive Achievement Among Left Behind Children in India: A Gendered Story

Kriti Vikram, National University of Singapore

Results showed that the disadvantage experienced by girls in arithmetic scores is ameliorated by living in extended families where the presence of other adults possibly reduces the burden on girl children. Lastly, the impact of migration is completely mediated by remittances and investments in private schooling for males. Girls continue to be disadvantaged as financial investments are not necessarily directed towards them

Selected Works by CFPR Team

“Racialized masculinities”: A gendered response to marginalization among Malay boys in Singapore. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*

In this article, **A/P Narayanan Ganapathy** and **Dr. Lavanya Balachandran** take a neocolonial criminological approach in explaining racial disparity in crime, particularly how the Malay youth establish their dominance in gangs through hyper- and exaggerated forms of masculinity.

Elder-Care Issues in Southeast and East Asia. *Introduction to Special Issue of Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*

In this special issue, **Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** and **A/P Thang Leng Leng** explore elder-care in Asia with a focus on countries represented in Southeast and East Asia. Although the issues surrounding elder-care are diverse, in the Asian context, they overwhelmingly congregate around concerns dominated by the challenges facing long-term care provisions. While this alludes to inadequacy in the current long-term care policies and provisions in the region, the heightened attention also implies an anxiety towards meeting the care needs of the growing number of elders in Asian population.

Disability prior to death among the oldest-old in China. *Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*
A/P Feng Quishi and colleagues show that in this large nationally representative sample of the oldest-old in China, the prevalence of disability during the three years prior to death is high and is greater in women than men and those who die at the oldest ages.

Social capital and child nutrition in India: The moderating role of development. *Health & Place*
Assistant Prof Kriti Vikram examines the relationship between social capital and child nutrition in this paper. It shows that household based bridging social capital, expressed as connections with development based organizations, is positively associated with child nutrition. Bonding social capital, expressed as ties with caste and religious based organizations, has the opposite impact.

Families in Southeast and South Asia. *Annual Review of Sociology*
 In this article, **Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** and colleagues reviewed literature on trends in fertility, marriage, divorce, and living arrangements in the past half century. The explanations for these trends focus on structural and ideological changes related to socioeconomic development; cultural factors including kinship system, religion, and ethnicity; and public policies.

Media Outreach

THE STRAITS TIMES OP-ED

2 APR '18 *Want More Babies? Try Cutting Men's Work Hours*

Dr Erin Kim Hye-Won puts forth evidences that suggest changing men's time use can help women better manage both work and family commitments, which is then likely to lead to increased fertility rates, even as their labour participation rates increase.

18 APR '18 *Why More Women in East Asia are Not Marrying?*

A/P Jessica Pan shares her opinion on the declining trend of marriage in East Asia and the suggests some reasons for this phenomenon.

17 MAY '18 *Marriage, Families Under Stress as Norms Change*

CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and **Dr Hu Shu** discusses the need for more open discussions on what Singaporeans view as desirable family norms and functions and have public policies adapted to accordingly, to tackle the issue of low fertility and marriage rates in Singapore

19 JUN '18 *Time is Ripe for 'Second Half of Gender Revolution' in Asia*

CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung talks about the 'second half of gender revolution' in Asia, which refers to the increased value in the society for educated mothers and involved fathers.

2 Aug '18 *Social exclusion increases risk of cognitive impairment*

Dr Yang Yi shared that a study on the China situation has shown that socially excluded elderly people are more likely to suffer cognitive impairment that can lead to dementia. She opined that the findings of this study have important implications for ageing countries in the region,

4 MAR
'18

To Marry or Not to Marry: How Social Norms Determine a Woman's Marriage Prospects

A/P Jessica Pan discusses about highly educated women in North American, Nordic and Western European countries being more likely to get married than their less-educated peers, a stark contrast to patterns observed in East Asia and Southern Europe.

1 APR
'18

Want More Babies? Try Cutting Men's Work Hours

Dr Erin Kim Hye-Won puts forth evidences that suggest changing men's time use can help women better manage both work and family commitments, which is then likely to lead to increased fertility rates, even as their labour participation rates increase.

6 MAY
'18

Reviewing the Definition of Family

CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and **Dr Hu Shu** suggest the need to adapt the functions and definition of family to match prevailing social changes, like low fertility and marriage rates, to allow the family system in Singapore to function more effectively.

3 JUN
'18

The Perennial Dilemma: Motherhood, Employment and Impact on Children

Dr Kriti Vikram shares about how the amount of maternal involvement in academic activities link maternal employment with a child's cognitive development. She also discussed policies pertaining the issue.

24 JUN
'18

Involved Fathers Are Good for Family, Children, Women and Themselves

CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung highlights the long reaching effects of increased father involvement in childcare and housework on the family, especially the children. She also discusses the various paternity leave policies in different countries.

5 Aug
'18

Social Exclusion Increases Risk of Cognitive Impairment

Dr Yang Yi shares about the lessons Singapore can learn from the elderly situation in China, where her study has shown that socially excluded elderly people are more likely to suffer cognitive impairment, which can lead to dementia.

To access the full list of articles please visit <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/media/lhzb.html>

INTERVIEWS & OTHER ARTICLES

You Date, Government Foots the Bill

CCTV 13, 25 March 2018

CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung shares about the various incentives the Singapore government has put in place, with the aim to help parents manage work and family, as well as to make marriage and family a more attractive option for singles



How Do You Make People Have Babies?

BBC World News, 18 June 2018

BBC World Service discusses the demographic crisis of decreasing fertility in 4 countries - Singapore, Sweden, France, and Israel in this episode. **CFPR Director Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung** shares her views on this issue pertaining Singapore



Our research associates have been recognized for their outstanding and impactful scholarly accomplishments, which are internationally acknowledged. Congratulations to them! We look forward to their continued leadership and successful contributions.



Professor Brenda Yeoh has been appointed as Chair Professor (Raffles Professor in Social Sciences), with effect in July 2018, in recognition of her outstanding and impactful scholarly accomplishments, which are internationally acknowledged.



Prof Chong Yap Seng will be appointed as the 17th Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine from 1st January 2019.



A/P Vincent Chua was recipient of the 2017/2018 Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA).



Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung had her term extended as Provost's Chair (Department of Sociology)



Dr Qiushi Feng has been promoted to an Associate Professorship with tenure with effect from July 2018



A/P Narayanan Ganapathy was recipient of the 2017/2018 Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA). In addition, congratulations to A/P Narayanan Ganapathy who was placed on the ATEA Honour Roll for winning the award three times.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARS:



Prof Bonnie Erickson
Department of Sociology
University of Toronto (St. George)



Prof Li Youmei
Shanghai University, Chairperson of
the Chinese Sociological
Association



Prof Kyriakos S. Markides
University of Texas Medical Branch
at Galveston

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS:



*The Demand and Impact of
Micro Pension in
Developing Countries*

PI: **Dr Song Changcheng**,
Department of Economics, Faculty
of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS
Amount: \$10,000
Project Duration: May 2018 to
March 2020



*The Role of Moral Stories and
Encouragement in Promoting
Honesty in Young Singaporean
Children*

PI: **Dr Ding Xiaopan**, Department
of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences, NUS
Amount: \$10,000
Project Duration: May 2018 to
March 2020

NEW FACULTY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES:



A/P Andrew Francis-Tan

Visiting Associate Professor, Lee Kuan
Yew School of Public Policy, NUS



A/P Wong Mee Lian

Saw Swee Hock School of
Public Health, NUS

NEW STAFF IN CFPR:



Bian Xiaochen

Postdoctoral Fellow
PhD, Economics, NUS



Steve Wang Zhiwen

Research Assistant
Master by Research (Management), NUS
and Master (Quantitative Finance), NUS



Elizabeth Kim

Postdoctoral Fellow
PhD, Psychology and Social Behavior,
University of California Irvine



Celine Qin Si

Intern
Major in Sociology
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Au Ka Lee, Catherine

Intern
Major in Early Childhood Education,
Postgraduate Diploma in Education,
The University of Hong Kong



Natalie Pek

Intern
Major in Sociology
University at Buffalo, New York
(SIM Global Education)

RECIPIENTS OF RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP:



Nawal Binti Mohamed Hashim

MA, Psychology, NUS



Lim Kia Yee

PhD, Economics, NUS



Luo Qinyue

PhD, Economics, NUS



Lu Shuya

PhD, Sociology, NUS



Jiang Liu Yan

PhD, Sociology, NUS



Bi Yue

MA, Psychology, NUS

Upcoming Seminars

Lunchtime seminars are held from **12pm to 1.30pm** at **Ventus Evans Room** unless stated otherwise. Register via our **website**.

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|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 21
AUG | <i>Migration, Aging and Health in Western Countries</i> | 12
OCT | <i>The Effects of Cognitive Appraisal and Coping Flexibility</i> |
| | Prof Kyriakos S. Markides, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston | | Dr CHEN Luxi, Postdoctoral Fellow, SG Leads (CFPR) |
| 24
AUG | <i>Lineage Networks and Primary Schools in Rural China</i> | 19
Oct | <i>Families in Southeast and South Asia</i> |
| | A/P Felicia F. TIAN, Department of Sociology, Fudan University | | Prof Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, Director, Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR), Provost's Chair Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS |
| 31
AUG | <i>Does Adversity Affect Long-Term Financial Behaviour?</i> | 26
Oct | <i>Exploring Social Networks of Older Singaporean Learners</i> |
| | Assistant Prof Fan Yi, Department of Real Estate, School of Design and Environment, NUS | | Dr Ko Pei-Chun, Research Fellow, jointly appointed with Changing Family in Asia Cluster, Asia Research Institute (ARI) and CFPR, NUS |
| 7
SEP | <i>Social Norms and Fertility</i> | 2
NOV | <i>Social capital and health among immigrants to Australia</i> |
| | Assistant Prof YI Junjian, Department of Economics NUS | | Assistant Prof Dr Lee Jeong Kyu, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and Dean's Office, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS |
| 21
SEP | <i>Trajectories of Insecurity: Young Adults' Employment Entry, Health and Well-Being</i> | 9
NOV | <i>Poverty and Preschoolers' Developmental Outcomes</i> |
| | Prof Sonja DROBNIČ, Department of Sociology, University of Bremen, Germany and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, NUS | | CHEN Xuejiao, PhD Student, Department of Sociology, NUS |
| 4
OCT | <i>Childlessness and Aging Alone: Comparative Perspectives from East and Southeast Asia</i> | 16
NOV | <i>Genomic advances and its impacts on social sciences</i> |
| | A/P Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan, School of Social Sciences and Lee Kong Chian Fellow, SMU | | Prof GUO Guang, Dr. George and Alice Wells Distinguished Professor, Department of Sociology, UNC-CH |

Jobs & Research Opportunities

Multiple full time and part time research positions, research scholarships, fellowships and internship opportunities are available. To know more please visit <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr/joinus/index.html>

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