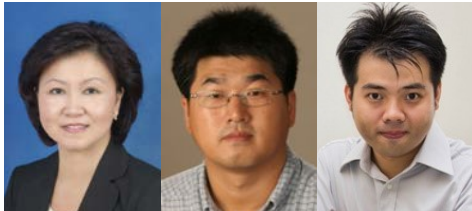


SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



GROWING UP IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN ASIA

by Prof Jean Yeung, CFPR Director, Department of Sociology and Asia Research Institute (ARI); and
A/P Hyunjoon Park, University of Pennsylvania

LIVING ALONE IN ASIA

by Prof Jean Yeung and Dr Adam Cheung,
The Hong Kong Institute of Education

CFPR Faculty Development Grant



Tablet Use of Pre-schoolers: Family Dynamics, Parenting Practices and Mediation Strategies

A/P Lim Sun Sun, Assistant Dean (Research) and Department of Communications and New Media



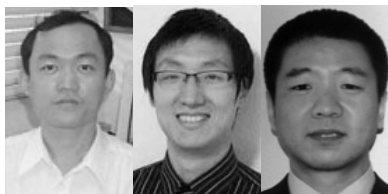
Caring for Frail Seniors in the Community: A Solution-based Approach

A/P Thang Leng Leng, Department of Japanese Studies and CFPR Deputy Director



Female Migrants' Transition to Adulthood in China: Marriage and Job Trajectories

Dr Mu Zheng, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI and CFPR, NUS



Population Ageing, Old Age Labour Supply and Bequest Motives in Singapore

A/P Liu Haoming, Dr Song Chang Cheng and Dr Zhu Shenghao, Department of Economics



Protecting and Perfecting the Muslim Family: Marriage and Parenthood Education Programmes in Malaysia and Singapore

A/P Maznah Mohamad and Dr Suriani Suratman, Department of Malay Studies

NUS HSS Grant



The Changes in Intergenerational Mobility in China

Dr Yi Junjian,
Department of Economics

Research by CFPR Postdoctoral Fellows



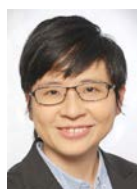
Demographic Trends in India: Sex Selection, Human Capital, and Ageing

Dr Abhijit Visaria, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI and CFPR, NUS



The Prevalence and Psychosocial Correlates of Addictive Behaviour in Young Adults

Dr Yvaine Yee Woen Koh, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI and CFPR, NUS
PI: Prof Catherine Tang, Department of Psychology and CFPR Deputy Director



Productive Ageing in East Asia: Individual Factors, Family Structures and Health Implications across Countries and over Time

Dr Ko Pei-Chun Postdoctoral Fellow, ARI and CFPR, NUS

GROWING UP IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN ASIA

IN TWO RECENT ISSUES OF *MARRIAGE AND FAMILY REVIEW* (V.51, NO. 1/2, 2016), PROF JEAN YEUNG AND A/P HYUNJOON PARK ASSEMBLED NINE ARTICLES THAT EXAMINE THE TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN ASIA AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH FAMILY STRUCTURE FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING.

Yeung and Park point out that certain unique Asian contexts have shaped how the experience of growing up with parent(s) absent affects children's well-being in Asia compared to that in Europe or in the U.S. Weak welfare systems, strong gender inequality in the labor market in several Asian countries, and strong cultural norms in other Asian societies that favor traditional two-parent families may have more severe consequences for children in Asia. Conversely, other contextual features in the region such as the prevalence of extended families as a source of support may reduce the social and economic advantages of one-parent families.

The heterogeneity and complexity of one-parent families in Asia are demonstrated in the nine articles in this collection which studied the phenomena in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, India, Singapore, Korea, Cambodia, China and Vietnam. In terms of causes, one-parent families due to divorce are relatively prevalent in more developed economies such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong whereas migration is the main cause of one-parent families in China and Vietnam. Death of one or both parents has been an important reason for Cambodian and Indian children to grow up with one parent or no parents at all.

In terms of understanding the importance of support that lone parents receive from their extended families, the studies on Taiwan and Cambodia report potential beneficial effects of grandparental coresidence while the studies in Korea, Japan and India caution against this assumption because of the often limited resources of the extended families and the stigma attached to divorced women in these societies. In some societies, the impact of living in one-parent families depend on the gender of the child and the causes of lone parenthood. Lone fathers appear to receive more help from their own parents. The effect of cultural norms such as son-preference and labor-market constraints for women in India shows how children, especially female children, of lone parents are greatly disadvantaged. In rural China, left-behind children are not found to be more disadvantaged than their counterparts who co-reside with both parents.

Yeung and Park underscore the importance of cultural, political and developmental context in understanding family change and its impact in Asia, where religion, patriarchy, rapid industrialization and globalization and state play key roles in family lives.

LIVING ALONE IN ASIA

GLOBAL TRENDS IN LIVING ARRANGEMENTS HIGHLIGHT ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS (OPH) AS THE FASTEST GROWING TYPE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN MANY REGIONS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING ASIA. PROF JEAN YEUNG AND DR ADAM CHEUNG EDITED A SPECIAL ISSUE IN *DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS IN ASIA*.

According to the latest statistics, in many economically advanced countries more than one-third of households contained only one person at the end of the last decade (Figure 1). While the prevalence of OPH in Asia is generally lower than in Europe and North America, the more economically developed societies in East Asia such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan have the highest proportion of OPH in Asia, at 32.4%, 23.9%, and 22% respectively. It is estimated that by 2020, 4 out of top 10 countries with the highest number of OPH will be Asia, with China and India leading the list.

With population ageing, declining fertility and marriage rates, increase in divorce and migration, it is expected that OPH in Asia will continue to increase in the future. The 11 papers in the collection examine OPH in 15 countries in East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea), Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines) and South Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, and Pakistan). The collected papers analyze the historical trends, the policy implications and impact on individual well-being of OPH.

This collection is the first body of literature that systematically investigates one-person households outside of Western societies. The papers use data from censuses and large-scale household surveys, many with longitudinal or comparative analyses. Together, they provide an excellent basis for international comparison and future investigation. They illustrate both similarities to and differences from Western societies. The papers also reveal significant inter- and intra-national heterogeneities among those living alone in Asia.

As in the West, age and gender are the main stratifying factors in the patterns of one-person households. OPH in Asia consists primarily of the elderly and young adults - the elderly due to widowhood, particularly women, since women have a higher life expectancy compared to men. The increased propensity of young urban adults who live alone plays a more significant role in the

rising prevalence of OPH in Asia. For young adults, men, and to a smaller extent, women, migrate away from their families for employment and live alone as a consequence of delayed marriage, divorce, and overall increased geographic mobility. Unlike Western societies, the Asian young adults who live alone in urban areas are not necessarily middle-class professionals who choose solo living as a new lifestyle. Rather, many of them are migrant workers and working-class individuals.

There is a wide variation of living alone situations in different countries. For example, in the case of China, for those under 30 years of age, the better-educated and the more money they have, the more likely they are to live alone. China is also struggling to cope with the rapidly aging society where a rising number of elderly people, particularly women, live alone due to widowhood.

Professor Yeung's research is cited in two articles in a recent issue of *The Economist* (2015, Aug 29): "The kin and I" and "Young, single and what about it?" The articles highlight that the current reforms in China's welfare system are inadequate due to the prevailing assumption that children should fulfill their filial obligations in helping their ageing parents. In doing so, elderly people who do not receive familial support often feel ashamed, and are less receptive to receiving aid and become more isolated from their community. *The Economist* also reported that China has seen an increase in suicide rates among the elderly; from 2009 to 2011 people over 65 accounted for just under half of all suicides, with a higher incidence in rural areas.

Thus, further research on the relationship between living arrangements, social networks, and well-being is required to understand OPH in different contexts. There is also a need to better understand the pathways between living alone and its effects on the health and psychological well-being of young adults, as well as the role of public policy in influencing both the motivations and the implications of living alone.

CFPR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

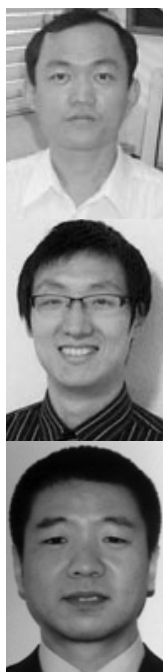
Tablet Use of Pre-schoolers: Family Dynamics, Parenting Practices and Mediation Strategies



A/P Lim Sun Sun is Assistant Dean (Research) and Associate Professor at Department of Communications and New Media

Mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets are encroaching more aggressively into the domestic space. Families with young children are no exception and mobile devices are increasingly being used by parents as tools for educating, entertaining or even 'babysitting' their pre-school aged children. While Internet-enabled mobile devices purportedly offer benefits for young children's social and cognitive development, previous research has found evidence for health risks, and an adverse impact on parent-child interaction. This study will examine parental perceptions of mobile devices in families with children of pre-school age. It will uncover the strategies used by parents to mediate the use of Internet-enabled handheld devices such as iPads by children aged 3 to 5 in Singapore. It will also study how different households manage their children's use of tablet devices, use them for educational or recreational purposes and which mediation strategies are deployed and with what consequences. The research will involve interviews of parents, observations of their children, and an innovative apps-plotation technique where the researchers will analyse the content of the tablets used by the children and classify the apps that are most widely downloaded and utilised.

Population Ageing, Old Age Labour Supply and Bequest Motives in Singapore



From top: A/P Liu Haoming, Associate Professor; Dr Song Chang Cheng and Dr Zhu Shenghao, Assistant Professors at Department of Economics

Singapore has one of the longest life expectancies in the world which is expected to grow as the result of rising life expectancy and declining fertility rates. Financing the consumption of the elderly population has become an ever challenging issue for both academics and policy makers. Whether we can overcome these challenges will largely depend on our understanding of household financial and labour supply decisions related to retirement. The introduction of several policy initiatives undertaken by the Singapore government in the past few years to address these issues provide us with a unique setting to study different aspects of household financial decisions. Understanding such decisions not only contributes to the advance of economics theory but also helps us to further refine these policies to guarantee that the elderly population will be able to enjoy their later stages in life. This project aims to address the following issues: the existence and the reasons of bequest motives and the determinants of bequest, and the availability of annuities on labour force participation of the elderly. To achieve our goals, we plan to conduct a household survey that will collect the following information:

- (1) Socioeconomic demographics
- (2) Attitudes and satisfaction about CPF LIFE plans
- (3) Measurement of individual risk preference, time preference and social preference

CFPR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Protecting and Perfecting the Muslim Family: Marriage and Parenthood Education Programmes in Malaysia and Singapore

Accounts and statistics of high rates of divorce, out-of-wedlock and teenage pregnancies, domestic violence, and single-motherhood reinforce the picture of the unstable Muslim family potentially in need of guidance for marriage and parenthood. Today, marriage education courses have become the socio-legal prerequisite of Muslim marriage registration in Malaysia and Singapore. Muslim marriage education programmes in these two countries are religion-centric and promote particular Islamic values, rules and doctrines to sustain and reproduce the model of a sacred 'familism' as defined by Nock (2005). The presumption here is that strong normative guidelines will strengthen the marriage institution and minimize if not prevent the risks of divorce, irresponsible parenthood, out-wedlock childbirths and a host of other social problems associated with family dysfunctionality. In this research we will be studying some of the contents and expected outcomes of these education courses, as well as their effectiveness in redressing the 'family in crisis' problem. Other guiding research questions are the following:

- (1) What were the factors which led to the initiation of these religion-centric marriage courses, and subsequently a Muslim marriage education movement?
- (2) Could other macro-factors such as the rise and expansion of the religious bureaucracy (in Malaysia) have also contributed to the enhancement and enlargement of these programmes?
- (3) Have the notion and features of the modern Muslim family been qualitatively (or demographically) transformed by this education movement?



From top: A/P Maznah Mohamad, Associate Professor and Dr Suriani Suratman, Senior Lecturer at Department of Malay Studies

Caring for Frail Seniors in the Community: A Solution-based Approach

Among the issues confronting a rapidly ageing population in Singapore is care provision for frail seniors in the community. Like many fellow Asian societies, it is not uncommon to rely on foreign domestic workers (FDW) as a viable solution in Singapore families. In the recent years, there is also heightened recognition for a more comprehensive array of healthcare in the community for the seniors. Increasingly, the healthcare sector has also come to realize the need for a more integrative effort with social care, including the use of technology in the holistic scope of long term care provision for the seniors. This proposed project aims to contribute towards our understanding and efforts to provide better eldercare in the community within the Singapore context. Through a qualitative approach, the project aims to understand the caregiving arrangements and needs of families with seniors who are experiencing cognitive and/or physical decline, to explore and pilot new interventions available to provide holistic support and care of frail seniors in the community and to eventually work towards the development of a more comprehensive long term research project with a solution-based approach to enhance community care of frail elderly. The project will be a part of a an international collaboration and ties in with an existing project on community care of frail elders in China and South Asia led by Professor Bei Wu from School of Nursing, Duke University.



A/P Thang Leng Leng is CFPR Deputy Director and Associate Professor at Department of Japanese Studies

CFPR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Female Migrants' Transition to Adulthood in China: Marriage and Job Trajectories



Dr Mu Zheng is Postdoctoral Fellow at Changing Family in Asia Cluster, Asia Research Institute (ARI) and CFPR, NUS

China has witnessed tremendous increase in internal migration since the early 1980s, and fruitful research has been done based on this vibrant group ever since. However, as a disproportionately high proportion of the earlier migrants were men, previous studies have been predominated by research on male migrants. The behavior and social impact of the remarkable rise in female migrants in recent years has not been adequately understood. Compared to their male counterparts, female migrants are more diverse in their motivations for migration, migration profiles, and migration trajectories. Moreover, overall, little research has been done on the impacts of migration on transitions into adulthood. This project aims to provide a systematic examination of the various types of migration and their influences on female migrants' marriage and job experiences. By supplementing quantitative analysis based on the nationally representative Chinese Family Panel Studies (CFPS) with in-depth interviews conducted in Beijing, we will be able to better understand the underlying mechanisms driving the process of migration and transitioning to adulthood. Specifically, the aims of this project are:

- (1) To examine how the experience of ever migrating and how migration duration influence female migrants' experience of cohabitation and divorce. As migration brings about tremendous instabilities in individuals' lives, this project aims to investigate how the uncertainty and instabilities may influence female migrants' romantic relationships and marriage.
- (2) To examine how the experience of ever migrating influences female migrants' entry into marriage and the resulting matching patterns in marriage. We are especially interested in how one's natal family background may moderate the relationship. As migration is usually driven by pursuits of upward social mobility and opportunities to assimilate into the urban life, marriage with someone from different social origins (for example, hukou status and place of origin) is among the strategies to realize migrants' goals' of migration.
- (3) To examine how the experience of ever migrating influences female migrants' time use. Migration is usually driven by better economic opportunities on one hand, and the possibility to assimilate into the receiving communities on the other. We aim to systematically investigate how female migrants balance between their work efforts and social activities.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CFPR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Centre for Family and Population Research is inviting applications for seed grant proposals.

Deadline of application: 31 March 2016

For more information about the call, please click [here](#)

NUS HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES GRANT

The Changes in Intergenerational Mobility in China

In the last 40 years, China has undergone remarkable economic development and is now the world's second largest economy. However, the rapid economic transformation is accompanied by rising income inequality. Our proposed project aims to study the changes in intergenerational mobility in China. We plan first build a unified theoretical model on income inequality and intergenerational income mobility from a human capital perspective. We then plan to rigorously estimate the temporal, geographic, and gender patterns of the intergenerational mobility in China by using household-survey data sets from various sources. Our proposed research attempts to be one of the first to theoretically and empirically provide the systematic analyses of the temporal patterns of cross-sectional inequality and intergenerational mobility in China. It will contribute to the existing economics literature on intergenerational mobility in developing countries. Also, it will provide theoretical and empirical bases for designing policies to remedy the worsening inequality and intergenerational immobility in China other developing countries at similar stages of economic transition and development as well.



Dr Junjian Yi is Assistant Professor at Department of Economics

CFPR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

The Prevalence and Psychosocial Correlates of Addictive Behaviour in Young Adults

PI: Prof Catherine Tang, CFPR Deputy Director and Department of Psychology, NUS

Behavioural addiction is a new field of study in psychology and psychiatry, and includes activities that have the potential for producing excessive reward-seeking and pain-relieving behaviours. At present, there is a paucity of research on behavioural addiction. The available literature on substance addiction shows that substance misuse typically co-occurs with various mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders. Various psycho-social features have also been found to relate to substance misuse, including aggression, low self-control, presence of life stress, and lack of social support. This study represents the first comprehensive study to investigate behavioural addiction in the Asian/Singapore context. In this study, the types of addictive behaviour under investigation include online gaming, use of internet and social networking platforms, intake of sweet and fatty food, excessive exercising, and buying habits.

This study proposes to survey 1000 college students between the ages of 18-25 at NUS. It aims to investigate the following:

- (1) Prevalence rates of various types of addictive behaviour.
- (2) Personality characteristics of individuals who engage in various types of addictive behaviour.
- (3) Family characteristics of individuals who engage in various types of addictive behaviour.
- (4) Mental health status of individuals who engage in various types of addictive behaviour.
- (5) Associations among life stress, social support and engagement in various types of addictive behaviour.



Dr Yvaine Yee Woen Koh is Postdoctoral Fellow, Changing Family in Asia Cluster, ARI and CFPR, NUS

CFPR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Demographic Trends in India: Sex Selection, Human Capital, and Ageing



Dr Abhijit Visaria is Postdoctoral Fellow, Changing Family in Asia Cluster, ARI and CFPR, NUS

My research encompasses three themes – sex selection, human capital, and ageing – that have shaped and will continue to shape society in India, the world’s second most populous country. In the past two decades, India has seen an increase in the educational attainment of males and females, an increase in fertility control and a decline in total fertility, declining infant and child mortality, and increasing life expectancy. At the same time son preference as a sociocultural phenomenon persists, and while there is some evidence that the sex ratio at birth in some states of India improved in the 2001-2011 period, child sex ratios became more skewed during that period. A female disadvantage in child mortality also persists. My current research on this is an extension of my doctoral dissertation that looked at differences between Hindus and Muslims in India in terms of son preference using measures of fertility as well as sex differentials in child health outcomes. Using more recent data, I am studying the relationship between declining fertility preferences, human capital investments, and son preference, including an increasing dependence on daughters during old age.

The second broad strand of my research seeks to understand the implications of women’s education for socioeconomic mobility among female migrants in India. While female domestic migration in India for education and employment has remained low or declined during the 1983-2008 period, the proportion of female migrants who report marriage as the primary reason for migration remained high and increased from 76 to 86 percent during this time. Given the increase in educational attainment of women in India but stagnating rates of overall labour force participation, my research seeks to study the implications of increasing education for socioeconomic mobility, specifically among marriage migrants.

My third major research project pertains to ageing. An important demographic feature of India in the coming years will be the rise in absolute as well as relative numbers of the population aged 60 and above. The issues of the elderly in India, particularly those related to family relationships and living arrangements, health status and old-age financial support, are important to better study and understand. My own research examines patterns of intergenerational resource flows among the elderly in India, including differences between support received from sons and daughters, range of sources, and dependence on social support programmes.

CFPR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Productive Ageing in East Asia: Individual Factors, Family Structures and Health Implications across Countries and over Time

Rapid demographic ageing in East Asia (China, Japan and South Korea) has not only triggered policy reforms related to institutional support for older adults, but also generated public debates about how to let older adults feel included socially in the wake of changing traditional family values.

I will work on the concept of productive ageing, which emphasizes that productive activities (such as grandparenting and volunteering) can create new social roles that indirectly improve social integration of older adults. This concept has been widely examined in Western contexts, but empirical research based on East Asia is still limited, appearing only in small-scale studies and in cross-sectional data. This project has two sub-projects:

- (1) Examine the relationship between individual and family factors and changes in productive activities, including employment and childcare, as well as in socially productive activities such as volunteering, care provision, and informal help.
- (2) Examine the impact of engagement of productive activities on health outcomes, both physical health and mental health.

These two objectives will be achieved through the analyses of large-scale ageing datasets – CHARLS (China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study), CFPS (China Family Panel Study), JSTAR (Japanese Study of Ageing and Retirement), NUJLSOA (Nihon University Japanese Longitudinal Study of Ageing), and KLoSA (Korean Longitudinal Study of Ageing). I will conduct cross-national comparisons as well as investigate changes over time, as these datasets contain multiple waves that are rich in demographic information on older people in their respective areas, SES (socioeconomic status), family structures and health status. This research will contribute toward scientific understanding of the structural factors of activity engagement and health implications of productive ageing in this region.



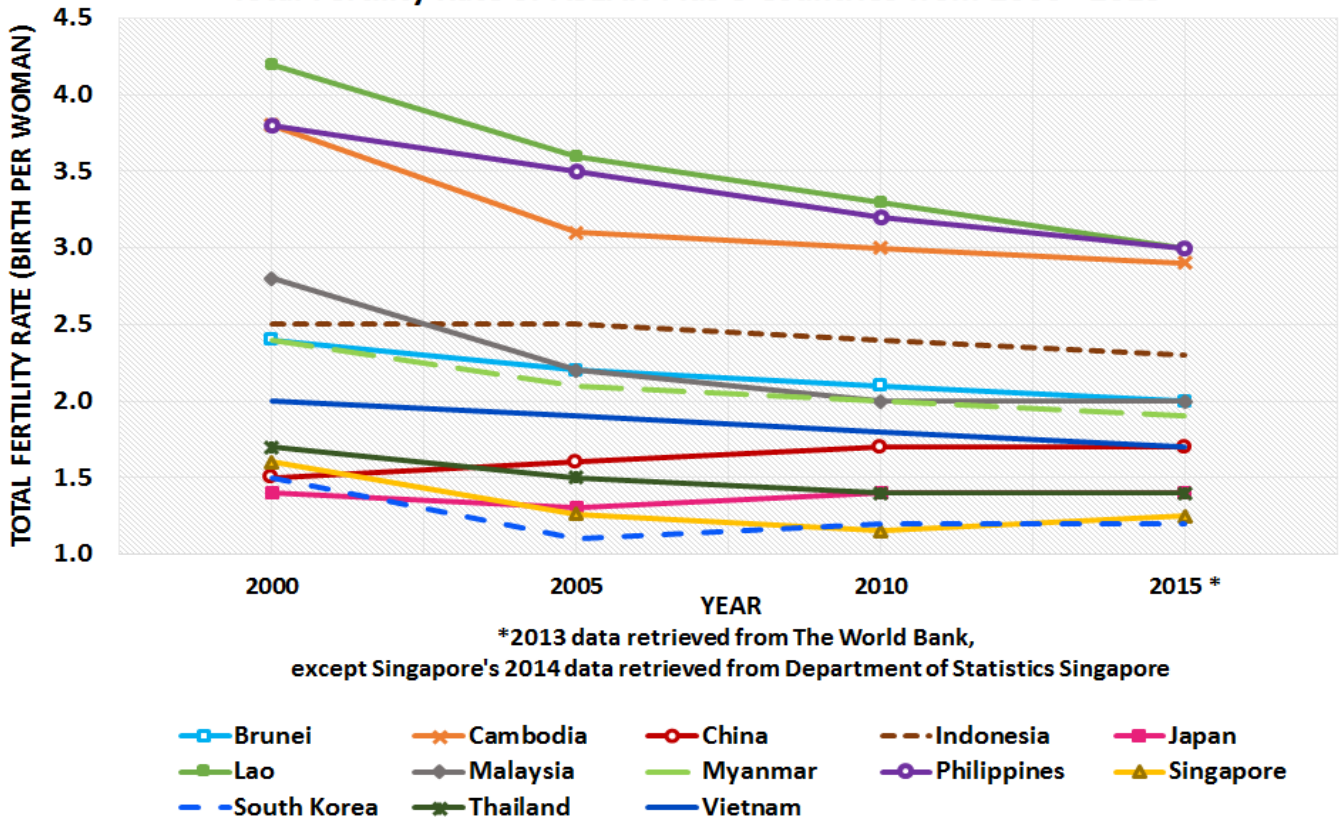
Dr Ko Pei-Chun is Postdoctoral Fellow at Changing Family in Asia Cluster, ARI and CFPR, NUS

ONGOING PROJECT

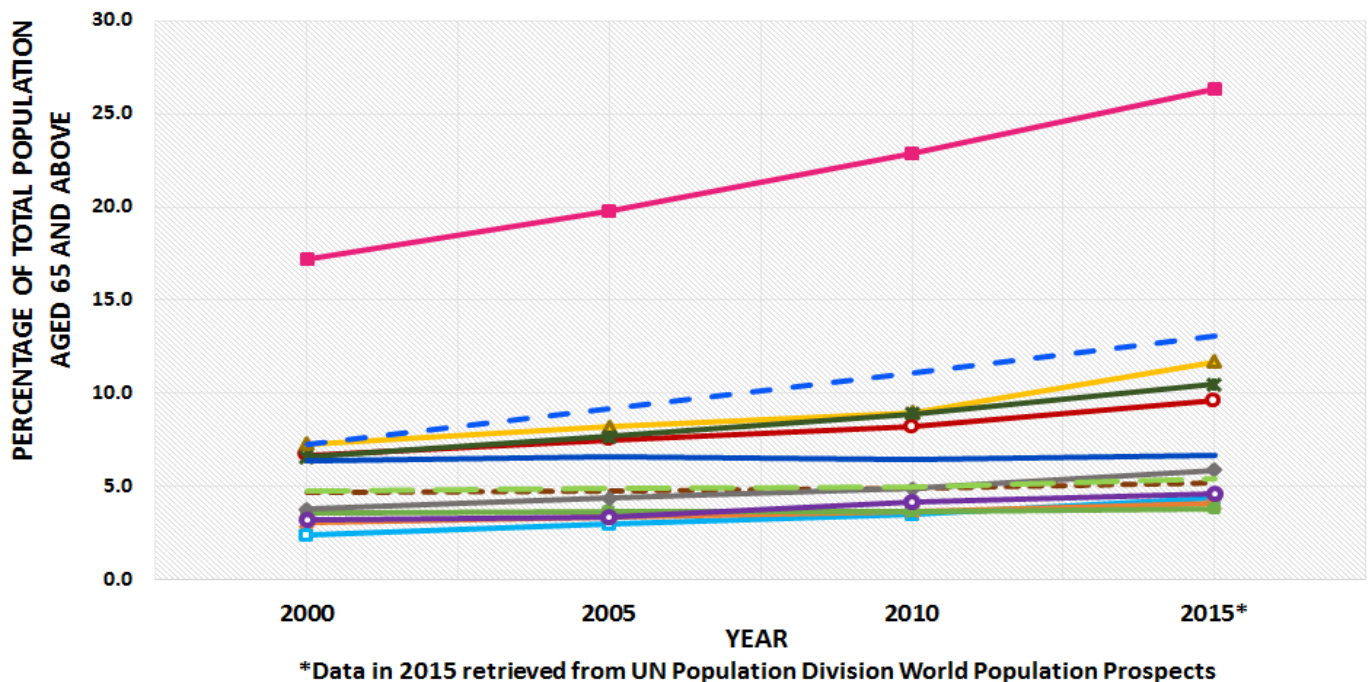
Family Transition in Southeast Asia

CFPR has received a S\$200,000 contribution from OUE Limited to conduct research on changes in Southeast Asian families. Prof Yeung is working with CFPR staff, Gi and Nawal, on this project. The figures below show the declining fertility trend, as well as the percentage of elderly aged 65 and above, of the ASEAN plus 3 countries (China, Japan and South Korea) from 2000 to 2015. The oldest among the countries is Japan, which also has one of the lowest fertility rates. In contrast, developing countries such as Lao PDR and the Philippines are among the youngest countries, with the highest fertility rates in the region.

Total Fertility Rate of ASEAN Plus 3 Countries from 2000 - 2015



Percentage of Total Population Aged 65 and Above of ASEAN Plus 3 Countries from 2000-2015



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